LH3
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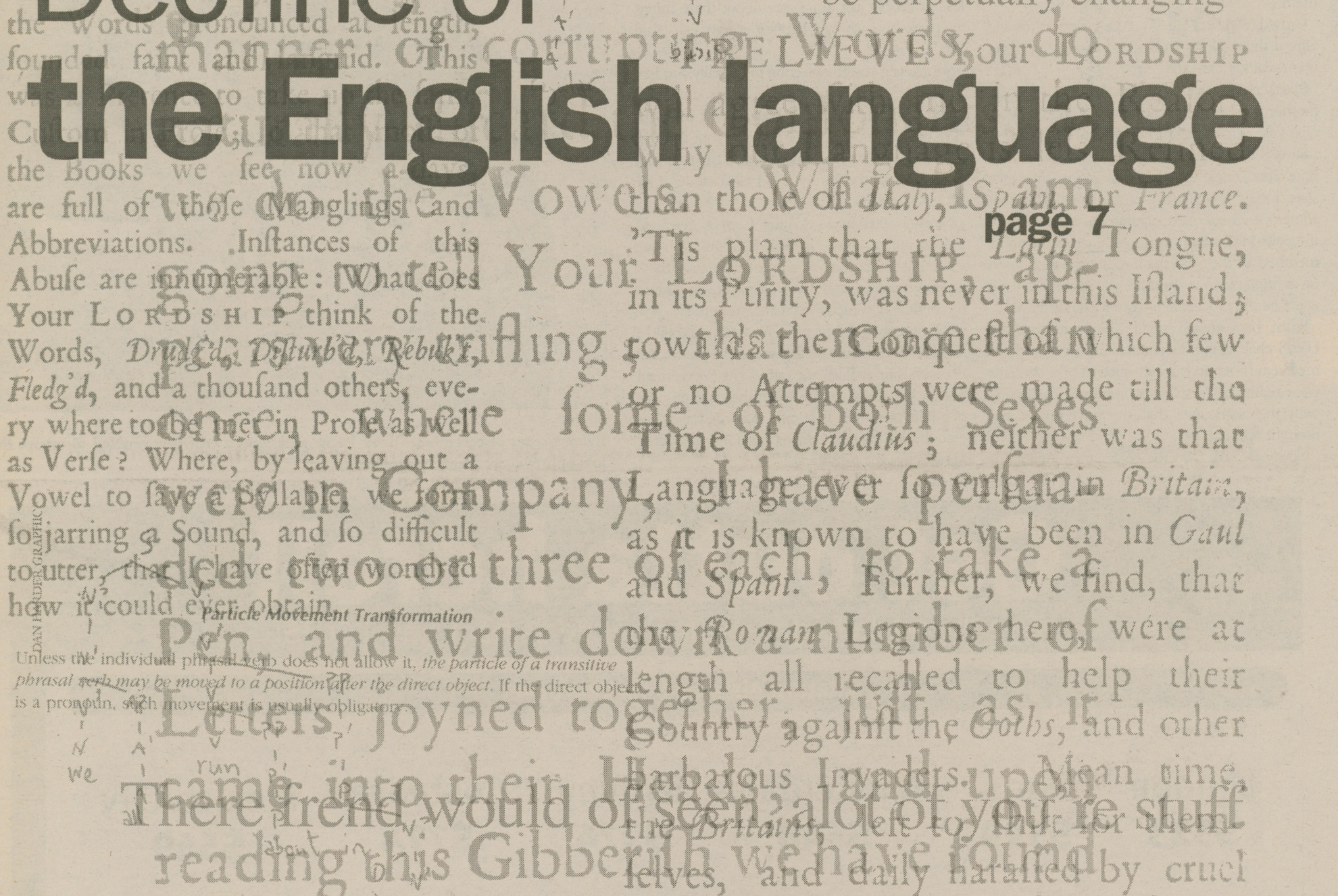
MARTLET.ca

Thursday, March 11, 2004 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | Volume 56, Issue 25

Decline of the English language

page 7


Particle Movement Transformation
Unless the individual phrasal verb does not allow it, the particle of a transitive phrasal verb may be moved to a position after the direct object. If the direct object is a pronoun, such movement is usually obligatory.
U= You
O= Oh
K= Okay
L8R = Later
4UR = Forever
UR = Your, you're

El Salvador
Politics and civil war
pages 12 and 13

Student elections
Conservatives make inroads
page 3

Sports hair
Hall of shame
page 19

Protestors soak while opponents simmer

Wet rally mourns loss of student grants

BY GRAHAM STARK

A transient group of around 30 rain-soaked students crowded around a damp tent in front of Petch Fountain on Wednesday, March 3 to express dissatisfaction with the provincial government's decision to cut post-secondary grants.

UVic Students' Society (UVSS) directors lit candles for the "memorial/wake mourning the loss of student grants," as Director of Services Scott Payne referred to the rally during his duties as "the official guy who annoys people into signing cards describing how the loss of grants has affected them."

Crowd members filled out the yellow cards and affixed them, along with a carnation, to a larger memorial for all to see.

Speakers included Christina Ambrose, a single mother who said she will rack up a $15,000 debt next year alone thanks to the loss of her grant.

Several members of the group, who were at the time candidates on the Putting Students First slate, took full advantage of the small crowd for some last-minute campaigning before people hit the polls. In diametric opposition across the pond, members of the Students for Change slate stood in a conspicuous huddle of umbrellas and watched the proceedings from a safe distance.

From his vantage point, then-candidate for UVSS chair Dallas Henault said he believed the meagre turnout was an indication of how students were ready for "a different approach to dealing with the restrictions that the government has brought upon us."

Newly-elected Director of Finance Agata Lis seconded Henault's sentiment. "Rallies and protests are okay, but you have to balance that with other avenues of action." Lis felt this lack of balance–not the poor weather conditions–explained the low turnout. "If you're passionate about what you stand for, a little rain shouldn't be stopping you."

It seemed that despite the UVSS board's desperate and hasty poster and leaflet campaign, news of the cuts roused students into little more than a state of frenzied apathy. There were about 30 students there, but not the same 30. People passing by would sit in for five minutes, then leave. "People just don't care about these things anymore because they happen every week," said Lis.

Some even voiced objection to the rally. Student Cyrus Lim was studying in the library until local band, Chet, started playing as part of the rally. "I've got half a mind to tell them to shut the fuck up. The guy's so damn loud that you can hear him right through the library and I can't study at all. It's really annoying."

Newly-elected chair Joanna Groves defended the disruptive noise. "[The loss of grants] is an issue that's important to a lot of students. I think it's important enough that we can take an hour in the middle of campus to create awareness."

She described the event as an attempt to build a lot of public pressure on the issue. "We believe this decision is reversible," she said. "The government has backed down before when there's been a lot of public pressure." The rally may not have generated a lot of this pressure, but Groves assures, "This is just the beginning."

NIC HUME PHOTO

Event master of ceremonies Scott Payne addresses a crowd assembled to mourn the loss of provincial grants to students.

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Why do we vote?

BY JOHN THOMPSON

As students casted their ballots during the final hours of student elections last Friday, *the Martlet* conducted an extremely unscientific election poll. It's well known that roughly one in 10 undergraduates vote during election years without a referendum. What we wanted to know was, why?

A total of 26 students who voted were approached, more or less at random, in the Student Union Building, MacLaurin building, University Centre and McPherson Library.

When asked why they voted, most students answered that they cared where their student fees go, or they felt that if you don't vote, you can't complain. Others answered they wanted a say in how UVic is run, or a collective voice to represent them. A few said they voted because they were friends with candidates. None admitted to being bribed or bullied.

Students answered ambivalently when they were asked how much the physical appearance of candidates influenced their votes. On average, those contacted rated the influence of the candidates' looks as 3 on a 10-point scale, where 1 was no influence and 10 was complete influence. "It shouldn't be at all," said a fourth-year psychology student, who candidly rated himself as 5.

"It's sad but true," said a third-year visual arts student, who also answered five. "It's strange how pictures influence you."

The importance of a candidate's personal platforms and their campus slate allegiances both rated high among voters, averaging 6.5 on the same 10-point scale.

When asked whether lower tuition fees or cheaper pizza was the most important election issue, many students agreed tuition hikes were important–but the majority answered with none of the above, citing environmental causes or better student governance as alternative answers. Many said campaigns against tuition fee increases overshadowed other important issues. None said 99 cent pizza was a priority.

With files from Sarah Petrescu, Aurea Flynn and Zoë Bake-Paterson

Fewer placards and more pizza

BY JOHN THOMPSON

Less placard-waving and more cheap pizza appears to be on the agenda for the upcoming school year.

Conservative candidates grabbed two of the four UVic Students' Society (UVSS) executive seats, as well as four of 11 director at large positions.

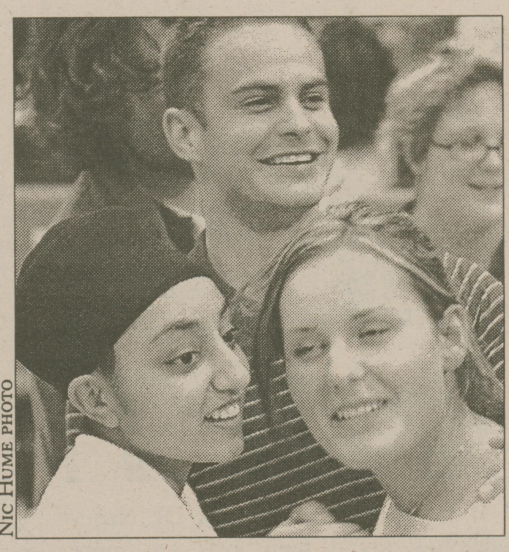
As the largest conservative victory at UVic in recent memory, the election results provide an interesting turn of events on a campus traditionally dominated by left-leaning candidates.

Mike Tan and Agita Lis from the Students for Change slate beat out their Putting Students First counterparts, Mary Thibodeau and Jamie Strachan. Chairperson-elect Joanna Groves said she wasn't happy with the results, but conceded it was good for democracy.

"We were hoping to take the executive. Mary and Jamie worked harder than anyone. If anyone deserved to win it was them. But my opposition was worthy and I wish them the best."

Incoming Director of Finance Agata Lis said she was relieved by the results and hoped to bring greater balance to student politics. She said she expects the student union will practice more lobbying and less protesting next year.

Candidates tossed their remaining handbills into recycling bins as polling stations closed on Friday afternoon, then headed to Felicita's pub to swill beer and wait for the outcome. Next door, ballots were counted well into the night inside Vertigo, the now-defunct Student Union Building nightclub.



NIC HUME PHOTO

Dallas Henault (centre) with Bhupinder Vinning (left) and Agata Lis (right) celebrate upon hearing UVSS election results.

As numbers from each polling station were announced, it became clear it would be a tight race for several candidates. It also became clear that Neil Evans wasn't one of them. The fourth-year history student and only director at large candidate to make a speech entirely in rhyming couplets had already faced two past electoral defeats, and he was on a collision course with another. That night he found himself regretting not putting more time into his platform, but less distressed than last year.

"I feel fine because I'm leaving. I'm not obliged to be coming back," he later said, referring to his upcoming graduation this spring. "It would have felt nice to be a winner, but whatever."

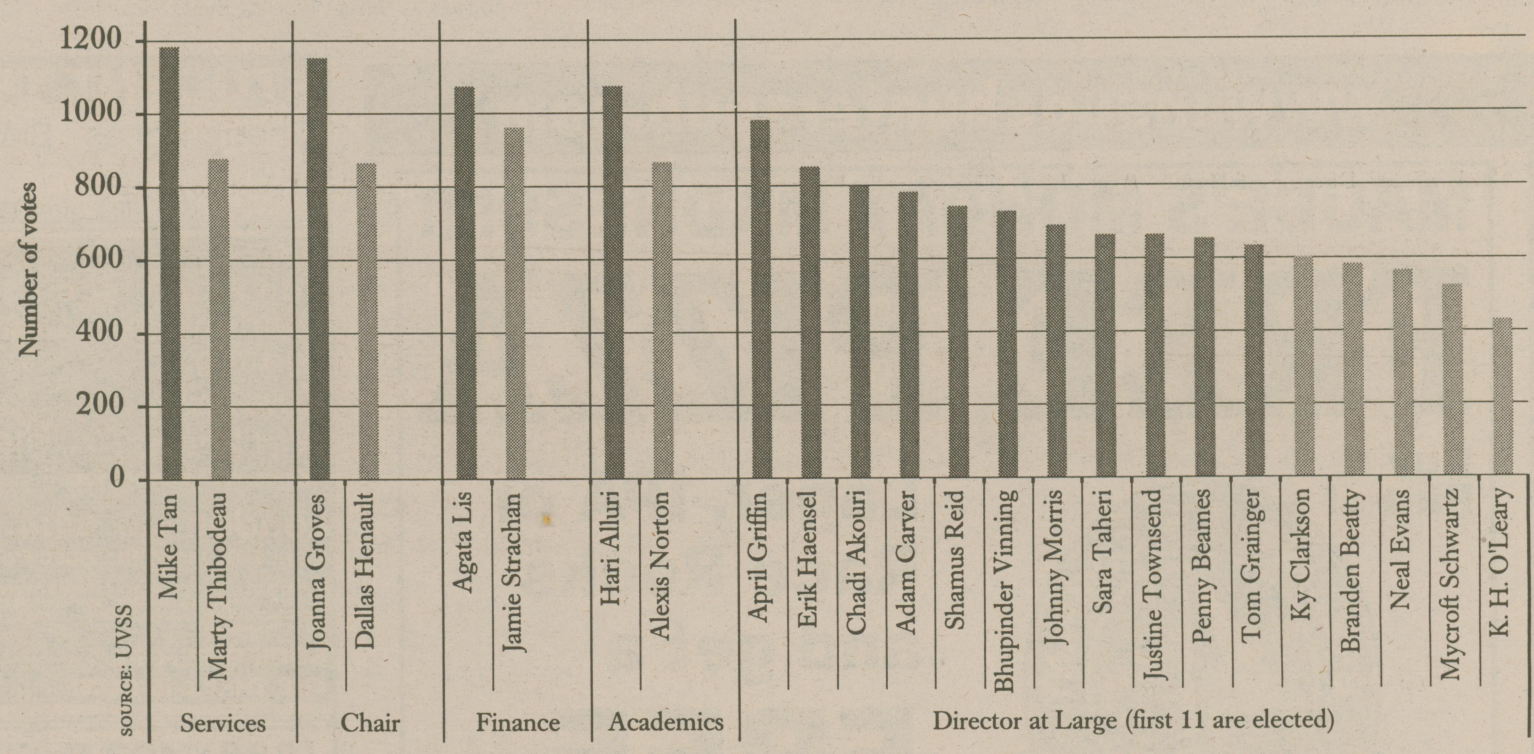
Not everyone was worried. Hari Alluri could be seen dancing in Felicita's while the final ballots were being counted and needed to be told he had won the race for director of academics.

"I think it'll be a really wild and fearsome time," he said of the upcoming year. "We have a really diverse group."

Adam Carver, one of the directors at large elected from the Students for Change slate, said the shift in voting patterns this year illustrates discontent among students with the current political strategies of the student union.

"They want some fresh faces and some fresh voices," he said.

Unofficial results of the UVSS election



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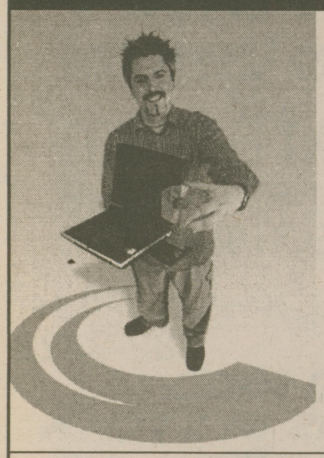

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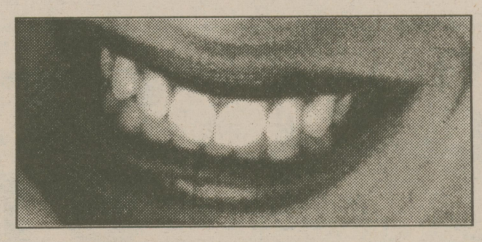

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25 per cent of teen girls face depression

by Paul Knoechel

EDMONTON (CUP) – Canadian girls are more susceptible to depression than previously thought, according to a recent University of Alberta study on teen depression.

Within a four-year period, 25 per cent of girls aged 16 to 19 experience a major clinical depression, which is a psychiatric condition.

Galambos, a psychology professor, studies adolescent problems and developmental issues. Working in collaboration with Dr. Bonnie Leadbeater of the University of Victoria and graduate student Erin Baker, Galambos said the team came across some unexpected results.

"I was surprised at the 25 per cent figure. We're talking one in four girls will experience major depression. I remember when we looked at the analysis, asking, 'is this right?' And we re-ran it because we wanted to be sure," she said.

In Galambos' view, this statistic is worrisome.

"If you experience one [bout of depression], you're likely to experience another, and if you don't get it taken care of, it can get worse and worse," she explained.

The research suggested, for instance, that smokers and adolescent girls with little social support are more prone to depressive symptoms. But the study raises many questions as well.

For example, the research suggests that girls are much more likely to suffer depression than boys. But while this finding affirms the results of other studies, the cause of this increased likelihood was not identified.

PROVIDED PHOTO

U of A psychology professor Dr. Nancy Galambos found teen girls are more susceptible to clinical depression.

"We were trying to find out why there were gender differences, and we weren't able to find any [reasons]," said Galambos.

But numerous hypotheses have emerged, she explained. It has been suggested that girls have an increased vulnerability to interpersonal stresses than their male counterparts. Another hypothesis speculates that girls are simply more prone genetically to depression.

"In identical twin girls, if one girl is depressed than the other one is likely to be depressed. This wasn't the case with identical twin boys," Galambos explained. "None of it is very satisfying–it's kind of an age-old question why girls are more depressed."

Haiti: A war-torn background

by Norman Ed Baskerville

This week 450 Canadian soldiers will arrive in Haiti, many specially trained to remove civilians from hostile urban situations, along with six Griffin helicopters to assist an international force in stabilizing the region.

The last remaining non-deployed military troops in the Canadian military will join 1,100 U.S. Marines, 500 French soldiers and 100 Chilean special-forces troops in the stabilization mission that was authorized by the UN on Feb. 29.

Haiti has been in turmoil since a violent Feb. 5 uprising where rebel forces called for now-overthrown president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to step down. Haitian National police officers, numbering 3,500, have been incapable of maintaining order over a country of eight million.

Since being ousted, Aristide has said that Haiti is now under foreign occupation and that the U.S. kidnapped him, forcing him out of office and sending him into exile in the Central African Republic.

The U.S. defends their action, stating that Aristide resigned voluntarily after the rebels established control over the northern half of the country.

Aristide and the Americans have been at odds since the former president won the disputed elections of 2000. In response to what they viewed as an undemocratic electoral process and their charge that some 70 per cent of their foreign aid found its way into the pockets of corrupt officials, the U.S. has froze over $500 million in aid. Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, is in desperate need of an economic boost.

The country's chief exports are agricultural products, which have been affected by overproduction by other poor countries and by subsidies and trade barriers in the United States and the European Union. Many Haitians have no way to earn a living beyond drug-trafficking. There is no tourist industry, and virtually no foreign investment to speak of.

Haiti's economic problems are made worse by its population growth, which in a mere 20 years has ballooned from five million to eight million.

The multi-national force will help ensure stability, supply security for officials and help distribute aid under the United Nations' 90 day mission mandate.

Prime Minister Paul Martin said at a press conference in Montreal that Canada will remain longer than the UN mandate, staying as long as year.

"The real problem in Haiti is that there is a whole generation that is in the process of losing hope," said Martin.

Forty per cent of the population is under 14 years old.

Martin added, "we are going to assure the young people of Haiti that they'll have a better future. We must not make the same mistake as the last time and leave prematurely."

Canada sent 600 RCMP to train police officers in Haiti from 1994 to 2001 and provided $200 million in aid during the same period.

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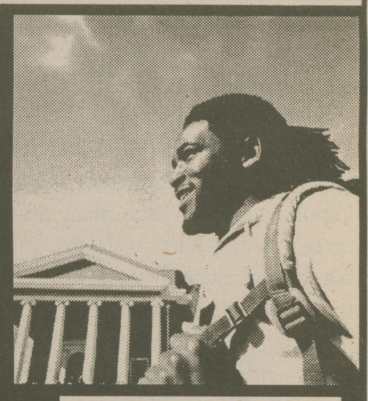

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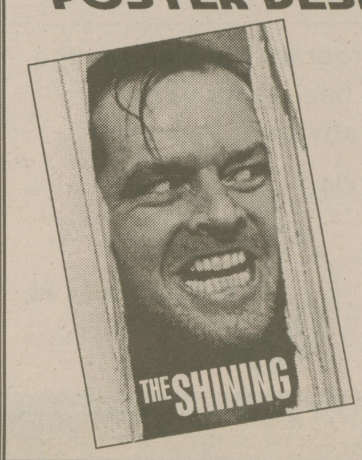

Movement starts to dump Weyerhaeuser

by Patrick White

Paper used to surround Ingmar Lee when he was a member of the university's board of governors.

He was overburdened with one-sided paper fresh from B.C.'s old growth forest, sent out to keep board members thoroughly informed of upcoming meeting topics.

Lee took action. He is an activist after all, one whose vociferous condemnations of everything from clear-cutting to farmed salmon to habitat loss have pierced the eardrums of a veritable who's who of B.C. business and political leaders.

Lee called for the board to adopt a motion that would see the university gradually phase in photocopiers that copied double-sided by default and used 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper. He thought the plan was reasonable. The rest of the board did not.

The problem, he was told, was that recycled paper often jammed photocopiers and printers. "I couldn't even get a seconder," says Lee of his failed motion, calling the board members who opposed his motion "trilobites."

Two years later and without a board seat, Lee is still pushing for the changes, but now he's got some help from the unofficial dean of student environmental activism, Erik Haensel.

About a month ago, Haensel was aghast at the sight of student senator Dave Holmes lugging around a 1,200 page stack of single-sided unrecycled paper. The mountainous docket of background information was sent to Holmes in preparation for a senate committee that was to meet in two hours.

Alarmed at the waste, Haensel helped Holmes put a motion before senate to consider switching to recycled paper. The motion was referred to a future meeting, but Haensel is optimistic. "This is a wedge for the rest of the university. If we win in the senate, then we can put more pressure on the rest of the university."

Ken Babych, the head purchaser for the university, would like to see the switch happen, but points out a number of barriers facing a full adoption of recycled paper. Asked if the university could switch he replies, "Well, how much do you want to see tuition fees go up?"

"100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper is dramatically more expensive," he adds.

More than expense, recycled paper makes for lower quality reproductions, jams equipment and leaves behind dust that "gunges up drums and mechanisms in equipment," according to Babych.

"That argument is ridiculous," says Haensel. The UVic Student's Society switched to 100 per cent post-consumer paper earlier last semester. They ate some initial cost for a new photocopier that doesn't jam as much, but Haensel says over the long term they will save money. "With the new copier we have saved so much in toner and making double-sided copies that the switch will be a positive income source."

A number of universities in the U.S. and Europe have already stopped using unrecycled paper.

During a phone conversation, Babych said he was waiting for a report from his suppliers on how much more the university would be spending if it purchased only 100 per cent post-consumer recycled paper.

In UVic President David Turpin's strategic plan, produced for the university last year, sustainable environmental practices are cited as an institutional responsibility. Babych says they use recycled paper where they can. "We use a lot of paper, but we are proactive. We do have clauses in tendered contracts that require recycling from our suppliers."

"We are environmentally friendly. It's all to do with quality, reliability and cost," said Babych.

While Lee works on getting students to sign a petition for the group, Haensel and others are researching paper and equipment alternatives that can address Babych's concerns. They are also looking at American and European universities that have already banned non-recycled paper.

The coalition pushing for the change is led by Lee and Haensel, but consists of eight campus organizations. For the time being, they are the "Kick Weyerhaeuser Off the Planet" group, according to their literature, but their immediate goal is to tarnish the image of B.C.'s biggest forestry company and one of UVic's biggest suppliers while pushing for enlightened paper use on campus.

"We produce paper in this province for the world. But we keep the air pollution and the water pollution right here. It's madness," said Lee.

Nic Hume photo

Environmental activist Ingmar Lee stands in front of his display in the Student Union Building decrying the use of Weyerhaeuser paper at UVic.

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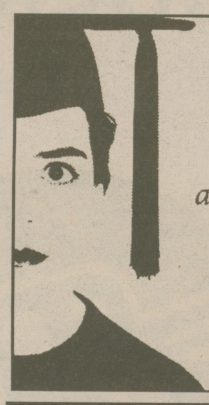

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Gender and genocide in Gujarat

Two years later, the tragedy is remembered

BY SOBIA VIRK

MONTREAL (CUP) – It has been two years since the Indian state of Gujarat, birthplace of Gandhi, made worldwide headlines for mass murders. The toll was between 2,000 and 5,000 dead, with over 100,000 Indian Muslims left homeless.

The word "genocide" quickly became associated with Gujarat, as evidence steadily revealed the premeditated and state-navigated nature of the attacks in late February and March of 2002. Complicit was the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Hindu nationalist party in power.

"What happened in Gujarat is considered a genocide on the basis of the planned, methodical program executed to commit ethnocide," according to Dr. Dolores Chew, a founding member of the South Asian Women's Community Centre and teacher of humanities and history at Marianopolis College in Montreal. "Killing was one aspect of it; the pogrom was also accompanied with mass propaganda against the Muslim minority, starting a decade ago. Economic, social and political isolation of Indian Muslims and their slow dehumanization resulted in the state-sponsored attacks. It was not spontaneous."

Early reports maintained that what initially sparked these mass murders was the burning of a train carrying Hindu activists that resulted in 58 deaths. The train was allegedly burned by a Muslim mob, leading to the sectarian violence that followed.

Chew, however, dismisses such claims. "All the evidence so far shows that the fire started inside the train, not by a mob outside."

"Gujarat is not an aberration, there was a consciousness about it," Chew said. "It's not the numbers that make genocide, it's the way it is organized, the intention, and the aftermath."

Chew, who recently visited Gujarat and met survivors, will be giving a lecture at Concordia University on March 5.

Women targeted

"At one level, it seems almost incomprehensible to try and make sense of the heinousness and horror that occurred in Gujarat," Chew said, referring to the women and children who were gang-raped, mutilated and then killed with swords or burned to death after being drenched in gasoline. "The word bestiality is applied, however animals do not cause pain in this way. We've crossed all boundaries."

The women Chew spoke to were "eerily calm" as they described what they had been through, casually pointing out rapists who still walk the streets.

The mob slashed wombs of pregnant women, stabbed the fetuses with swords and burned them, before raping and murdering the would-be mothers. Bodies were dismembered, with arms, legs and heads cut off with swords, leaving corpses unidentifiable. Local police refused to help. One policeman reportedly told survivors: "we have no orders to save you."

India has seen much communal violence against Sikh, Muslim and Christian minorities. However, state involvement, the precision and systematic ethnic cleansing and the acute sexual aggression against women differentiates 2002 from all other such dates in history.

"One of the aspects that broke the tradition was the way women were targeted. In the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, young boys dressed up as girls and their lives were spared. In 2002, that would not have worked," Chew maintained. "The only parallel I see is what happened in Rwanda in which the gender aspect was linked to the intent."

Justice denied

"We want justice," a survivor of the carnage told Chew. No cases have made it through the courts, and widespread immunity has been granted to the political figures involved.

The Hindu fundamentalist BJP party attempted to cover up the genocide, and hide its own participation. Few criminal cases make it through the initial stages of the legal system, even though the victims can identify the attackers. "At every level, there is harassment and witness intimidation," Chew said.

Why the lack of international intervention? "Globalization changes the dynamics, with India ranking higher on the world economy scale; countries want to make, not break ties with India," she said.

Dozens of fact-finding missions have released detailed reports exposing the state-sponsored massacres in Gujarat, however little has changed in India.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Dr. Dolores Chew, founding member of the South Asian Women's Community Centre in Montreal, calls the mass murders in Gujarat two years ago genocide.

"Within India, some people try to keep the issue alive. However, there does not appear to be a national concern–that makes it very difficult to address Gujarat," said Chew.

For her part, Chew continues to raise awareness on Gujarat, which has been called "a blueprint for India," and tries to make sense of the violence. She admits, "there are probably more questions than answers."

Having Chew speak at Concordia is one of the ways that International Women's Day is being remembered and acknowledged at schools all over Canada.

Annual General Meeting
Graduate Students' Society

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Adoption of Agenda
2. Adoption of Minutes - October 28, 2003 General Meeting
3. Executive Council Reports
4. Adoption of 2004-05 Annual Budget
5. Ratification of 2004-05 Executive Council Members
6. Other Business

Tuesday, March 30 at 5pm - Grad Centre
Refreshments Served
http://gss.uvic.ca

News briefs

UVic appoints human rights director

Cindy Player, a UVic sociology alumnus, will take up the new position of Director of Human Rights and Co-Director of the office of Equity and Human Rights at UVic this May.

Players' job will be to provide leadership in the development and coordination of discrimination and harassment plans, policies, and procedures.

Player is currently a human rights consultant with the city of Hamilton, Ontario. Prior to that position she was the sexual harassment/anti-discrimination officer at McMaster University for 11 years and a human rights educator in Carleton University's Status of Women Office.

–Sarah Petrescu

New Undecided Party brings disaffected voters together

A new political party is capitalizing on the growing number of disenfranchised Canadian voters. The Undecided Party of Canada is a satirical group claiming to be second most popular party in Canada, next to the federal Liberals. The group cites polls in which participants registered as "undecided" in answer to how they would vote. In their mission statement, available on the website www.undecidedparty.ca, the group states:

"We believe that Canadians have finally come to the realization that no matter which mainstream party they vote for, the resulting administration will always be the same. That they can no longer, in good conscience, have any part in 'hiring' an applicant who, despite lying on his/her resume, failing to live up to promise of performance agreements, and doing an all-round lousy job, cannot be 'fired' for as long as five years."

–Sarah Petrescu

Liberal MLA quits in protest of Campbell tyranny, faces party backlash

On March 8, Liberal MLA Elayne Brenzinger resigned from caucus in protest of Gordon Campbell's leadership. In an impassioned press release, Brezinger said "Mr. Campbell's administrative style has proven itself to be chaotic, haphazard and destructive to British Columbia. . . . Community dreams and goals are being crushed under this administration."

Brezinger went on to claim Campbell swore at her, something he admitted happened in jest.

Backlash to Brezinger's campaign hit instantly. Her former party allies were quick to raise issues of her credibility, citing her suspension in from caucus in December for attempting to choke an assistant during an argument. Another former assistant claimed Brezinger sent her a sex toy as a gift and said her boss was hardly up to date on community issues in her Surrey-Whalley riding.

–Sarah Petrescu

Student grammar decline

BY AMALIA COLUSSI

Word processors may dot your i's and cross your t's, but according to educators, computerized spell and grammar checkers are still not sophisticated enough to solve students' grammar woes.

Many profs are finding that a number of university students don't have the grammar know-how to express themselves clearly or to adequately analyze the English language–English and writing students included.

"Writers still need to know grammar in order to analyze language," said Susan Doyle, an instructor in the UVic English Department's Professional Writing Program for the past nine years.

"To teach a language, you need a language to describe it," she said. But Doyle points out many of the students she works with lack basic knowledge about English.

She feels students need the same level of mastery in English that language teachers expect of students learning a second language. "I don't see how we can expect less of English students than we do of students studying foreign languages."

A large part of the problem, according to Doyle, is that instructors require a strong foundation in grammar themselves in order to teach it. Yet few instructors at the elementary and high school level have that strong foundation.

"A big issue is that we've now had two generations of teachers without grammar," said Doyle. "The teachers themselves have not been taught it and therefore can't teach it."

Janice McCacheon, an English teacher at Claremont High School, agrees. She's been teaching English since 1989 and points out teachers are given little direction as to what they should cover in class.

"The curriculum itself is not very explicit," she said. The B.C. curriculum goals, called Projected Learning Outcomes, are "very nebulous and general. They don't talk about grammar specifics."

Grammar instruction, like bell-bottom pants and high-protein diets, blows in and out of style according to the winds of teaching theory.

NIC HUME PHOTO

As knowledge of grammar fades, more university students have trouble expressing themselves, says writing instructor Susan Doyle.

McCacheon suggested teachers feel pressure to entertain their students, and grammar has a reputation as being a boring subject. "The students expect a school to be lively, to be entertainment," she said. "I blame the media."

But the biggest culprit, according to both Doyle and McCacheon, is that students are reading less and less.

"The best students in my classes either don't have TV or cable, or they watch it less than others," said McCacheon.

And both agree that a basic knowledge of grammar is still an essential part of effective communication.

"It's still necessary to teach grammar," said Doyle. "We need grammar as an analytical tool."

"Most teachers are passionate about clear communication," said MCacheon.

But for those students who didn't learn grammar basics in elementary or high school, post-secondary school can be a rude awakening. Writing centres at Camosun College and UVic offer free tutoring and assistance to students experiencing difficulties in writing.

Dr. Lynne Van Luven, who teaches writing in the Fine Arts Faculty at UVic, has held two "grammar grind" workshops this semester. She ran the workshops both in response to student requests and because of her own concern that students were missing some grammar basics. The workshops, dealing with specific questions of the students, tended to be about mechanics, especially punctuation.

"Over the course of last semester, I would say about a dozen students in all three of my classes said they wished we had a place to discuss grammar in an extended fashion."

Although writing centres and student-centred workshops may be helpful to students, most instructors would agree that these measures are a tiny band-aid stuck over a gaping problem.

"University is not the place to teach [grammar]," says Doyle. "For one, students have already developed a certain style of writing. And two, they think that grammar must be hard because it's being taught at university. They tell themselves that they can't do it."

Although the UVic English department has discussed offering a grammar course, there are no plans to do so anytime soon. In the Writing department, Van Luven would like to see the workshops she organizes running on a regular basis. "I have never tried it before, but I think we should find a way to make them regular events – for those who want to attend."

However, she doesn't feel the department should offer specific grammar courses. "In a sense, every time we mark a paper or article with comments, or talk about sentence structure in workshops, we are conducting grammar lessons. We have no plans to become a Department of Grammar."

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Police raids, BC Rail and David Basi: a timeline

by Martin McCarvill

Last week the B.C. Supreme Court announced that the raids of David Basi and Bob Virk's legislative offices on Dec. 28 were related to breach-of-trust issues in the BC Rail sale. As a reminder that a lull in the action doesn't mean the federal and provincial governments are out of the woods yet, the following is a timeline of raid-related events so far.

June 5, 2001

David Basi is named ministerial assistant to Finance Minister Gary Collins.

His brother-in-law Bob Virk is named ministerial assistant to Transportation Minister Judith Reid. Basi and Virk were favoured in part for their fundraising activities on behalf of the provincial and federal parties.

April 2002

Victoria police and RCMP launch an investigation into organized crime schemes to trade B.C. bud to US gangs in exchange for cocaine from South America.

November 25, 2003

The provincial government completes its controversial sale of BC Rail to CN Rail for $1 billion amid allegations by CP Rail, another one of the bidders, that the bidding process is unfair. David Basi and Bob Virk worked on the sale, as did lobbyist Eric Bornman.

December 1, 2003

Attorney General Geoff Plant is informed by his staff of a case that will require appointment of a special prosecutor and may require a search of the legislature. The police have no jurisdiction in the legislature unless invited there by the Speaker or one of his delegates, as part of the parliamentary tradition of separation of the branches of government.

December 7, 2003

David Basi recruit Mandeep Sandhu is elected to the federal Liberal riding executive in Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca. Two days later, police raid Sandhu's home in Saanich and confiscate a computer. Sandhu is arrested, questioned and released.

December 11, 2003

Vancouver lawyer William Berardino is appointed special prosecutor in a case involving a police corruption issue and possible breach-of-trust on the part of political appointees at the legislature.

December 15, 2003

Constable Ravinder Dosanjh is suspended with pay by the Victoria police in connection with Berardino's investigation. Victoria police chief Paul Battershill later confirms that the suspension is also connected to the organized drug investigation. Dosanjh is the the cousin of Mandeep Sandhu, who is his partner in a residential building business.

December 27, 2003

Solicitor General Rich Coleman calls Gordon Campbell in Maui and tells him to expect an important call the next day, when Campbell is informed of the raid.

December 28, 2003

Police raid David Basi's legislative office and his Victoria home; Bob Virk's legislative office; the offices of Erik Bornman and Brian Kieran, Vice-President and President of Pilothouse Public Affairs Group, a firm that has done extensive work for the federal and provincial Liberals; and the Vancouver home office of Bruce Clark, Paul Martin's chief B.C. fundraiser. Thirty-seven boxes of files are confiscated from offices of Basi and Virk. The same day, police question Mark Marissen, Martin's B.C. campaign manager and husband of B.C. Minister of Children and Family Development Christy Clark, saying he might have been the "innocent recipient" of key documents.

Also on Dec. 28, police bust a marijuana grow op at Basi's Shawnigan Lake property.

December 29, 2003

Finance Minister Gary Collins fires Basi, who receives $54,000 in severance pay. Virk is suspended with pay.

December 31, 2003

Returning from Hawaii, Gary Collins assures reporters that he knows no more than the public about the investigation.

January 2, 2004

The B.C. Supreme Court hears a petition from several media outlets including the *Times-Colonist* and *Vancouver Sun* to unseal the search warrants. The case is held over until Jan. 14.

January 7, 2004

Gordon Campbell holds a press conference upon his return from Hawaii and says he knows nothing about the situation beyond the basic facts.

January 8, 2004

Media report that Basi is also being investigated in connection with the potential breach-of-trust regarding the privatization of BC Rail.

January 9, 2004

In response to these reports, Basi issues a statement that he has "not done anything wrong."

January 14, 2004

Associate Chief Justice Patrick Dohm of the B.C. Supreme Court adjourns the media application to open the warrants until the investigation is complete, but schedules further hearings to decide whether an edited summary can be released.

January 22, 2004

Lawyers for five people named in the search warrants argue that the edited version presented by Dohm paints a misleading picture of their clients. Liberal party lawyers argue that the absence of information gives rise to speculation that can be equally damaging. Dohm orders the records sealed until after charges are laid.

January–February 2004

It is widely speculated that laundered drug money might be finding its way into Liberal coffers in the form of dues for large numbers of new members recruited by fundraisers like Basi, members who then vote as a disciplined bloc. Meanwhile, Judge Dohm begins to sort through the 37 boxes of evidence obtained from Basi and Virk's offices, removing anything protected by Cabinet privilege or lawyer-client privilege.

March 2, 2004

Dohm releases court documents confirming that at least some of the non-drug warrants issued were related to breach-of-trust issues in the BC Rail sale. Finance Minister Gary Collins later confirms that the warrants in question were those issued to authorize the searches of Basi, Virk and Bornman's offices.

The police investigation will continue when Dohm finishes examining the confiscated documents, which is expected to take several months. Even without concrete allegations, however, the suspicion of unsavoury activity and association with organized crime is likely to be troublesome for the Campbell government in the runup to the 2005 election.

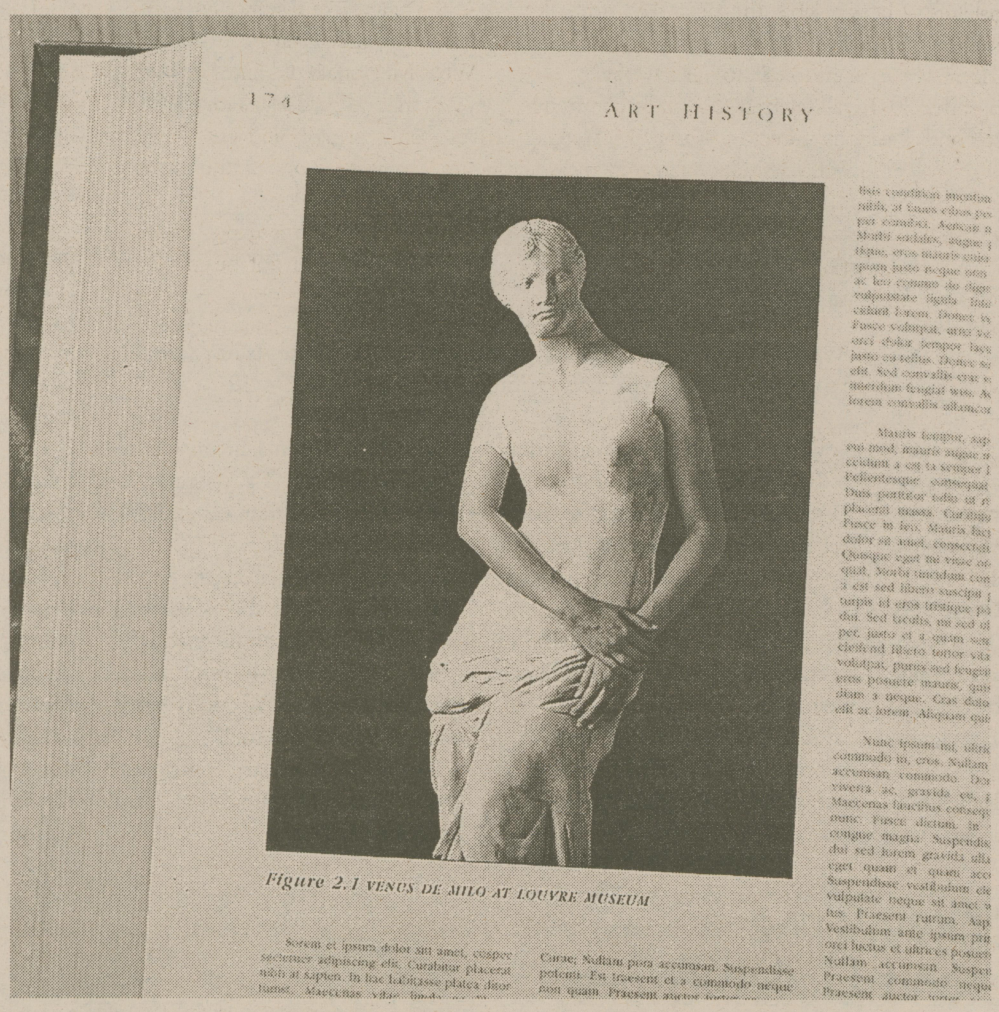

Figure 2.1 VENUS DE MILO AT LOUVRE MUSEUM

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PROVIDED PHOTO

Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond sits smug while listening to Premier Gordon Campbell's March 5 announcement of a new SFU campus. New campuses address space issues in universities, but not the affordability issues the provincial governments promised to address with loan remissions and post-degree grant programs.

In search of Bond

Promised grant replacement programs a cruel joke

BY SARAH PETRESCU

When Finance Minister Gary Collins announced the elimination of student grants–a $55 million program that funded up to one-third of poor students' income–this reporter went searching for Shirlery Bond, the B.C. minister responsible for advanced education.

The announcement of the grant cuts came with the promise of a student loan remission program and post-degree grants as replacements–something reiterated by budget documents, Collins and Bond. But since then, public information on these programs has been scant.

After two weeks probing for answers through 17 phone calls, 12 e-mails, four faxes, three assistants and two offices, minister Bond had still not gotten back to me to comment on the promised student loan remission and post-degree grant programs.

So, I decided to take advantage of my media card and attend an invite-only International Women's Day event on March 8 in the Legislature Hall and hunt down Bond myself.

Minister Bond was one of the first figures I spotted lingering amongst the crowd. After introducing myself and letting her know I was eager to speak with her, Bond politely obliged by sending me up to her office to make an appointment.

The prospect of meeting with Bond seemed promising: her secretary said she would set something up for the next morning and call to confirm later that afternoon.

When no confirmation came, I called Bond's office. The secretary curtly informed me Bond would not be available the next day, even the next week, asking "Why do you want to want to talk to her anyway?"

I was referred to Bond's communications director, Karen McDonald, the same assistant who told me she could not officially comment two weeks earlier when I sent her a list of questions about the promised programs, and who refused to return numerous calls and e-mails.

McDonald did call this time, but she was grossly unprepared. She was not familiar with the details of the student loan remission and post-degree grant programs in the budget. When asked about them she said, "I don't really know what you're talking about. Are they two separate things?"

What McDonald did know, however, was that no solid plans for the student loan remission and post-degree grant programs were in the works. According to McDonald, B.C.'s student loan remission and post-degree grant programs will not be in place this year, and no details on who will be consulted in the making of the programs have been set. So far, only a committee looking at programs in other provinces is working on the project.

Students and administrators will be disappointed to hear the provincial government has not followed through on the promise of these programs, meant to alleviate the stress grant cuts will cause to low income students.

In a *Martlet* article published last month, UVic President David Turpin described how one student called him in tears threatening to drop out of school when she heard her grants would be cut. Turpin, obviously shaken by the call, told the student to "hold on" and wait for details of the promised loan remission and post-degree grant programs.

The provincial government's cutting of the grants and subsequent failure to deliver on promised loan remission and post-degree grant programs not only impacts poor students and accountable administrators, but a growing number of British Columbians disillusioned with a government that has continuously failed to be accountable and accessible.

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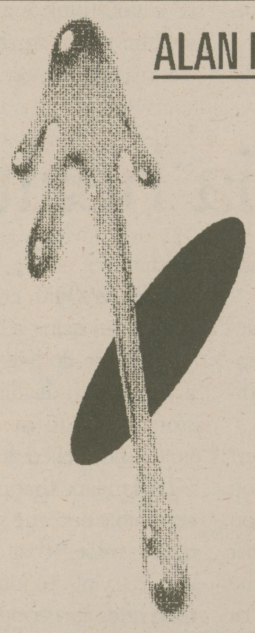

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EDITORIAL

Women's Day behind closed doors

This International Women's Day, the BC Liberal government held an invite-only event at the legislature to mark the day. Women's centre directors, key advocates in women's rights and local feminists were not invited. In fact, most of the people on the events blacklist were probably a few blocks away at the Womyn's Walkout, a protest challenging the provincial government's funding cutbacks to women's centres and services like legal aid and welfare.

At the legislature event, a small group of local businesswomen, ministers, assistants and press gathered to listen to Minister of State for Women's and Senior's Services Ida Chong's give a speech, entitled "She's on a Role." Chong described how women have come a long way to achieve equality in the workplace, in education and business. What she left out was that this march toward equality has come on the back of feminist advocates, none of whom were present.

Chong invited three women from the community to pay homage to a mentor in their lives, directing the focus of the event away from the grave inequalities many women in B.C. are facing and more into the realm of sentimental rhetoric. Tears and "ahs" spread across the well-dressed, obviously privileged crowd as a young woman broke down into sobs while describing her mother as a strong role model.

But among the crowd were grumbles and whispers of the walkout outside and news of MLA Elayne Brezinger's resignation in protest of a dominating male Premier. One member of the crowd was overheard saying, "what's all the media doing here? Brezinger's the real story."

Chong skirted around the obvious absence of women's advocates at the event and defensively addressed the cuts to women's centres, saying "we still spend $33 million on core service." The "core services" card has been overplayed by the government since the cuts. They overlook the question of who will be on the front lines to appropriately refer women to these services.

To say women don't need resources like women's centres when "core" services are still in place is like saying British Columbians don't need health clinics or family doctors when we have hospitals and specialists.

Essays and rainforests interconnected

Last year a group of hardy activists who camped in an arbutus managed to save a piece of scragly, second-growth campus forest known as Cunningham Woods. It was a major victory in the fight between a growth-obessesed university administration and anybody who enjoys the colour green.

In the larger scheme of things, saving this tiny scrap of trees was miniscule. This university uses hundreds of thousands of pieces of paper every year, most of which originates from huge and breathtaking stands of old-growth forest, and nobody aside from a growing collection of student activists seeem to think this is a problem.

But this is everybody's problem. The clear cut moonscapes littering our province are made because you print your essays on single-sided non-recycled paper and your profs do the same with thousands of class handouts. On top of that, the entire administration of this university acts as a continous production line of printouts on paper supplied by Weyerhaeuser and TimberWest, two companies that continue to slice out the coastal, old-growth ecological heartlands of this province.

In UVic president David Turpin's strategic plan for the future of our university, one of his stated goals is to implement planning and management initiatives of "a sustainable nature." Now, you can interpret "sustainable nature" in a million different ways, but planning for sustainability shouldn't just mean that all our new buildings will remain standing well into the next millenium without affecting the mating habitat of bunnies. It should mean that we promote sustainability everywhere we leave a trace of our footprint, regardless of the pennies saved.

We don't all have to shun soap, grow dread-locks and hug trees to push for enlightened paper use on campus. Just tell your prof they should post their syllabus on the web rather than on paper. Cough up a few extra cents to buy recycled paper for your printer. After all, it's not just bunnies that need a good place to live.

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Write us, or write for us: edit@martlet.ca

GRAHAM STARK GRAPHIC

"Look, I realize you're women, but you're not on the list."

Protesters be wary of wolves

BY TREY MCNEIL

Democracy, as we knew it, is over. People are no longer able to gather to protest in Canada or the United States of America without plain clothes officers from local and federal law enforcement agencies infiltrating the group. They do this without even having to suspect that the group may be acting unlawfully.

Their tactics include deploying officers dressed as protesters to stalk trough the crowd at protest rallies. Secretly armed with mini-canisters of pepper spray, palm-sized tazer guns and (their favourite) retractable billy clubs, they are ready to pounce on anyone at the slightest provocation.

Another popular tactic is for undercover agents and officers to infiltrate the planning meetings of various groups, as a sort of reconnaissance. They find out what the groups are planning, including what routes they may take, so that their agencies or departments are better able to put down the protest. In typical weasel fashion these government "moles" also attempt to provoke the peaceful groups into violence, thus giving their buddies at the department or agency full and legal license to go crazy with billy-clubs, tear gas, and pepper spray.

I want to again emphasize that these groups are not militants, anarchists or radicals, but peaceful protesters who are doing nothing but exerting their supposed constitutional rights to state their opposition to government policies. Past targets of infiltration include several student anti-war and anti-poverty movements, various other anti-war and anti poverty movements including the Quakers and the Raging Grannies and many groups involved with the anti-corporate globalization movement.

You may be wondering how this could possibly be happening. Well, that is their trick. They are very quiet about it, even keeping it from a lot of people within their own departments or agencies. They certainly do not tell the media about it, who learn about these abuses of rights through leaks after the fact, and most of the departments or agencies won't admit to using such tactics unless required to under oath if they are taken to court. These law enforcement officials have gone to great lengths to see almost no one knows that this is happening. But it is.

It happened at APEC (that is how they knew how to get Jaggi Singh), it happened in Seattle (this is how they got most of their arrests), it happened in Montreal (that is why there were so many injuries: they knew where to fire for maximum effect), it happened during the anti-Iraq war protests and it is happening now. Unless we make an effort to stop it, it will continue to happen.

So keep up the struggle my friends, but be careful about who you trust--that person on your left, who you think is an activist, may well be a wolf in sheep's clothing just waiting to pounce.

Skepticism of media healthy

BY JEB GORDON

I've always wanted a chance to warp the minds of youth. For this very reason I accepted an offer to join a media literacy panel in April.

As a committed media hack, I've worked in radio, print and television. But in my nine years of experience, I still haven't learned anything that I can encapsulate and spew at a bunch of teens, except my constantly growing cynicism.

After the first time I "ummed" and "ahhed"into a radio station microphone I became obsessed with media of all forms. And I quickly realized that people will believe you almost unconditionally if you're on the radio. I remember making up things I thought were completely over the top and humorous, thinking the audience would laugh.

The nugget of truth my mischievousness dug-up is that most people believe the media unconditionally.

Want to read the media better? Don't assume we're right. You read the newspaper and if you agree with it, you assume it must be correct. If the media tells me that the world is how I see it, I'm happy. We are all guilty of this folly. The problem with this passive approach to soaking up information is that a news report is only as good as its sources.

I'm not saying we live in a bleak Orwellian world where everything is double-speak. I don't believe that some sort of worldwide conspiracy controls any aspect of the media. Yes, some media owners do interfere with content, but that is far from being a conspiracy.

What we do live in, however, is a world with deadlines, where the story needs to be in on time so you're not yelled at or fired.

This means that people who are accessible become sources. A journalist trusts that their sources aren't trying to dupe them, and then finds someone who disagrees with that source and talks to them as well. The result is both sides of the story, right?

Not always.

I don't know what I will tell a roomful of teenagers next month. Maybe something like, "be skeptical of everything you read, see or hear in the media. But try to avoid cynicism."

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Jack Layton for Prime Minister

Can the progressive leader of the NDP form the next federal government?

BY KEVIN WALBY

The last year in Canadian politics have been marked by dramatic events which could shift party power in Parliament.

Jack Layton became the federal NDP leader.

There was the merger of the Canadian Alliance and the Progressive Conservatives to form the Conservative Party of Canada, spearheaded by the former party leaders Peter Mackay and Stephen Harper. Joe Clark condemned the "uniting of the right" because it entailed the demise of Canada's oldest political party, and David Orchard filed a lawsuit aimed at preventing the merger, which subsequently failed Dec. 5, 2003.

This consolidation of votes on the conservative end of the political spectrum was forged in order to challenge the remarkable staying power of the Canadian Liberals. The release of the federal sponsorship scandal report by federal Auditor General Sheila Fraser on Feb. 10, 2004 put the Liberals in hot water and Paul Martin in the hot seat, his first real test as Canada's new Prime Minister. Over $100 million dollars of public funds went missing to a variety of communications agencies in the form of fees and commissions–Martin was left holding the bag.

Almost immediately, the popularity of the Liberals in the polls took a dip. After years of paternalism and right-of-centre political fence-sitting by Chrétien, it now appears that the mantle of trust, which the Liberals for so long stood upon is beginning to crumble. The benevolent democratic totalitarianism of the Canadian Liberals might soon come to an end.

Enter Jack Layton, the avant-garde head of the New Democrat Party who became the federal NDP leader on Jan. 26, 2003 in a first-ballot victory. Layton does not currently sit in the House of Commons, but has been nonetheless radically forward-thinking and vocal in scrums and the public sphere, as he was when he sat on the Toronto City Council. During his stint as a councillor, Layton worked to make Toronto a more bike-friendly city, and worked with subculture leaders to make raves safer. He is an advocate of the legalization of marijuana, gay marriage, Kyoto and a "Green transportation system," public health care, and is staunchly anti-war and anti-aggression.

Layton recently spoke out against Canada's role in a North American missile defense system and stresses his party's new direction in reaching out to activist groups. Layton has also criticized Paul Martin's role in global capitalism as former president of Canada Steamship Lines (a company which utilized unfree labour in China).

In terms of education, Layton blames Martin-era cuts to funding for rising tuition, labelling him "the grand architect of the big slice." Layton believes post-secondary education needs to be addressed at a federal level. The former professor, who is spending his first year away from university teaching in 32 years, naturally stresses the importance of education. The NDP says they would create a Post-Secondary Education Act to increase and ensure continued funding for University students.

With a national election looming just around the corner, we must ask: What are the chances of such a progressive and innovative public servant leading the NDP to form the next government?

This depends on how supporters of both the left and the right react to the dramatic political events that have occurred in Canada in the last six months. If the Liberal rapport with the populace has truly been damaged, votes will go either to the Conservative Party of Canada, the NDP, or the Bloc Quebecois. The recent defection of a few Conservative MP's suggests that support for the party is waning. The upcoming leadership convention could also have consequences for the party. This does not lessen the fact that political power has been consolidated on the right, and that many traditionalist voters will cast in avour of the new party.

The viability of Layton and the NDP will depend on footwork, and also on how the NDP is perceived by the most radical factions of the population. Many progressive citizens have become indifferent to the representative political system in Canada and choose not to vote, not to be partisan or work for a party. And this is unfortunate for the NDP, because Layton without doubt has the energy and intelligence to work towards transformative social change.

South Korea changes North's enemy status

'The Korean division was essentially a miniature warfield of the Cold War'

BY MIN-HEE KIM

Finally South Korea has awoken from its illusion that North Korea is their number-one enemy.

On March 4, the government of South Korea published an official document called "Peace, Prosperity and National Security." It abandons their former stance that North Korea is their "main enemy" by removing them from their enemy status list.

Being a citizen of South Korea and a third-year political science student in Ewha Woman's University in Seoul, I am very happy with their decision. It is fallacious to say that simply by starting the Korean War, North Korea is still the South's enemy.

Generations of South Koreans were educated to hate North Korea. We were told that since North Korea invaded innocent South Korea on June 25, 1950, the invasion was the sole explanation for the Korean War. Of course, like most conflicts, the circumstances that led to the war were not as simple as good versus bad.

No one, at the time, debated the "fact" that the North was anything less than absolutely responsible for the conflict.

Every June 25, I and my fellow elementary school students were forced to watch a video about evil-minded North Koreans sneaking across the border and firing all over the place. There were even writing competitions on anti-communism issues. My classmates and I were forced to write poems or essays on the subject of–"I hate communist!"

Of course, as a child I believed what I was told, but now I am educated on the subject and know it was nothing but stupid propaganda. To my knowledge, the Korean War wasn't purely based on the madness of North Korea. Both the South and North were manipulated by the leaders of the Cold War–the United States, Soviet Russia and China. The Korean division was essentially a miniature warfield of the Cold War, so to speak.

After the end of the Second World War, the confrontation between two foreign axis powers was getting deep. Each side had to prove their way of life was better than the others. Meanwhile, Japan's defeat in the conflict released Korea from 35 years of being a Japanese colony.

Korea was in political turmoil because they'd never had their own modern government or foreign policy. They needed something to make them stable. That's why they started to lean on foreign ideology, such as communism, socialism, American democracy, etc.

Eventually, the situation inside and outside of Korea met each other's needs, which became the main reason of Korean War–in political terms, a result of the Cold War.

It id a tragedy that both South and North Korea haven't gotten over the Korean War. But the more tragic fact is that neither South nor North are free from other countries' opinions and interventions, as recent U.S. policy demonstrates.

What I'm hoping now is that South Korea's recent change in stance towards North Korea will be the first big step towards mutual respect between two countries, as well as a way to keep Korea independent from foreign influence.

Martha Stewart Prison Living

'She was investigated and accused of insider trading, but was not charged'

BY FORD WALKER

Last Friday jurors found Martha Stewart guilty of lying to the court and conspiracy to commit perjury, seemingly a great victory for the common worker.

A big-shot executive who became consumed by greed and swindled a bunch of cash from hard-working Janes and Joes by dumping stock. Surely her conviction will be a warning to other swine who commit similar despicable crimes.

The thought of *Martha Stewart Living* broadcasting live from prison sounds hysterical, with lines such as, "Today, we will be learning how to turn this old wicker basket into a shiv." Or, "I traded big Vinnie a carton of smokes for these lovely sequins."

Jokes aside, the sad truth is that she was investigated and accused of insider trading, but was not charged in court–a trend that seems to be common in the international business world.

Others also embroiled in scandals quickly filled the news pages near the time of her accusation, like people responsible for the Enron scandal who were charged with fraud and shredding documents, but not insider trading. It seems many corporate head-honchos are finding easy ways to dodge away from serious crimes.

That is not to say Stewart did not deserve what she got.

Her crimes were indeed related to stock market fraud and the destruction of bonds that recently tanked. She also recently resigned from the two major corporations she worked for, Revlon and Martha Stewart Living, since those stocks have plummeted since the accusations were made.

Still, the underlying fact is that she and quite a few other CEOs responsible for major market crimes have not faced more serious charges for robbing millions of investors. So how is this a "victory for the little guys," as one juror said?

To say that she is getting off easy would be false though. Stewart faces a maximum penalty of five years, plus a hefty fine. She is receiving little sympathy from consumers, and nobody is sticking their neck out for her.

She is one of the few who will see some measure of punishment for her crimes. Unfortunately, this does little to prevent other trusted CEOs from stealing money from average folk.

The flag of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), an outgrowth of the guerillas who fought a civil war against the Salvadoran government in the 1980s.

The ruling National Republican Alliance (ARENA) party is Presidential election, set for March 21, 2004.

'Who controls the present now . . .'

Politics and civil war in El Salvador

by Lynda Hills

It was our last day in El Salvador, March 2003. Simone Stothers and I sat in the cafeteria of the University of Central America (UCA) in San Salvador. The other members of the group had gone to eat at Pollo Campero, fast food chicken, but I was sticking to rice and beans.

We sat at picnic tables under a cover in the open air and chose our food from steaming trays set into a long counter. We paid with American money. It was a clear, sunny day and students talked, rested or moved from class to class much as they do at UVic.

Just up the hill, the Monseñor Romero Centre Museum displayed a grim contrast to our quiet lunch: the bloody clothes and belongings of six Jesuit priests, professors on campus, who were murdered in 1989 during the Salvadoran civil war. The priests believed in social justice and human rights, and encouraged students to speak out against government corruption and atrocities. Their strong beliefs made them a target for assassination.

Despite the peaceful surface, an undercurrent of violent history runs through everything that happens in El Salvador today. With two former civil war enemies now battling on the political stage, the country's bloody past is playing a vital role in determining its future.

Roots of conflict

I went to El Salvador, the smallest and most populated country in Central America, as an observer for the 2003 municipal elections with a group from Victoria called CommonBorders.

When we arrived in the capital, San Salvador, the busy, congested city was full of colour and movement. The doctors there had been on strike for seven months to protest the privatization of healthcare, and large demonstrations were taking place in support of the strike and against the imminent war on Iraq.

As election observers we were mandated only to watch and report, not intervene. The municipal elections were seen as a test-water for how Salvadorans might vote in the upcoming 2004 presidential election, when they will choose between the ruling National Republican Alliance (ARENA) party and the opposition Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN), an outgrowth of the guerillas who fought a vicious civil war against the United States backed Salvadoran government in the 1980s.

The roots of the current conflict go back to the mid 19th century, when coffee became the nation's most lucrative crop. As the country fell under the control of a small, powerful group of families, president after president supported the seizure of farmland from individuals and communal owners. *La Matanza*, a peasant uprising in 1932 led by Augustín Farabundo Martí, was brutally suppressed by the military.

Over the next half-century, discontent over the repressive and corrupt military government grew among workers and the Catholic clergy. Government-led paramilitary groups began to target suspected communists and union organizers in the late 1960s, and a military coup d'etat in 1979 brought in a new era of political violence.

Then on March 24, 1980, Archbishop Oscar Romero was assassinated. The priest had been an outspoken critic of civil rights abuses, and his death gave new fire to guerrilla organizations such as the FMLN, named after the earlier revolutionary folk hero.

The FMLN launched its armed struggle against government forces on Jan. 10, 1981. The guerrillas destroyed bridges and coffee plantations, cut power lines and killed livestock. They also kidnapped and held for ransom members of the ruling families. The military retaliated by attacking villages and murdering inhabitants. The most infamous attack was in El Mozote, where 900 people, including children, were massacred.

Later that year, a coalition of military officers, wealthy landowners and paramilitary leaders formed the extreme right ARENA party, which quickly gained power within the Salvadoran government. Party leader Major Roberto D'Aubuisson expanded the death squads which had been growing since the coup three years earlier; in the course of the war they murdered thousands of people. It is now known that D'Aubuisson himself signed the order for Archbishop Romero's assassination.

Throughout the war, the government received financial support from the United States, who were concerned about communism spreading in Central America. At the height of the conflict, then-president Ronald Reagan's administration was pumping over a million dollars a day into the country.

Peace talks began in 1989, after a major offensive by the guerrillas persuaded the government that there would be no military victory. In 1992, a formal ceasefire came into effect.

The 12-year civil war had claimed the lives of over 75,000 people.

Battle for control

Despite the peace accords, inequality of wealth and human rights abuses are still present in El Salvador. While the FMLN has grown from a guerrilla organization into a legitimate political party, U.S. influence has shifted from military to economic.

Much of the controversy in El Salvador today swirls around CAFTA, the Central America Free Trade Agreement, which the ARENA government signed with the U.S. last December. Similar to the North American Free Trade Agreement, CAFTA will reduce trade barriers and open the door to multi-national companies.

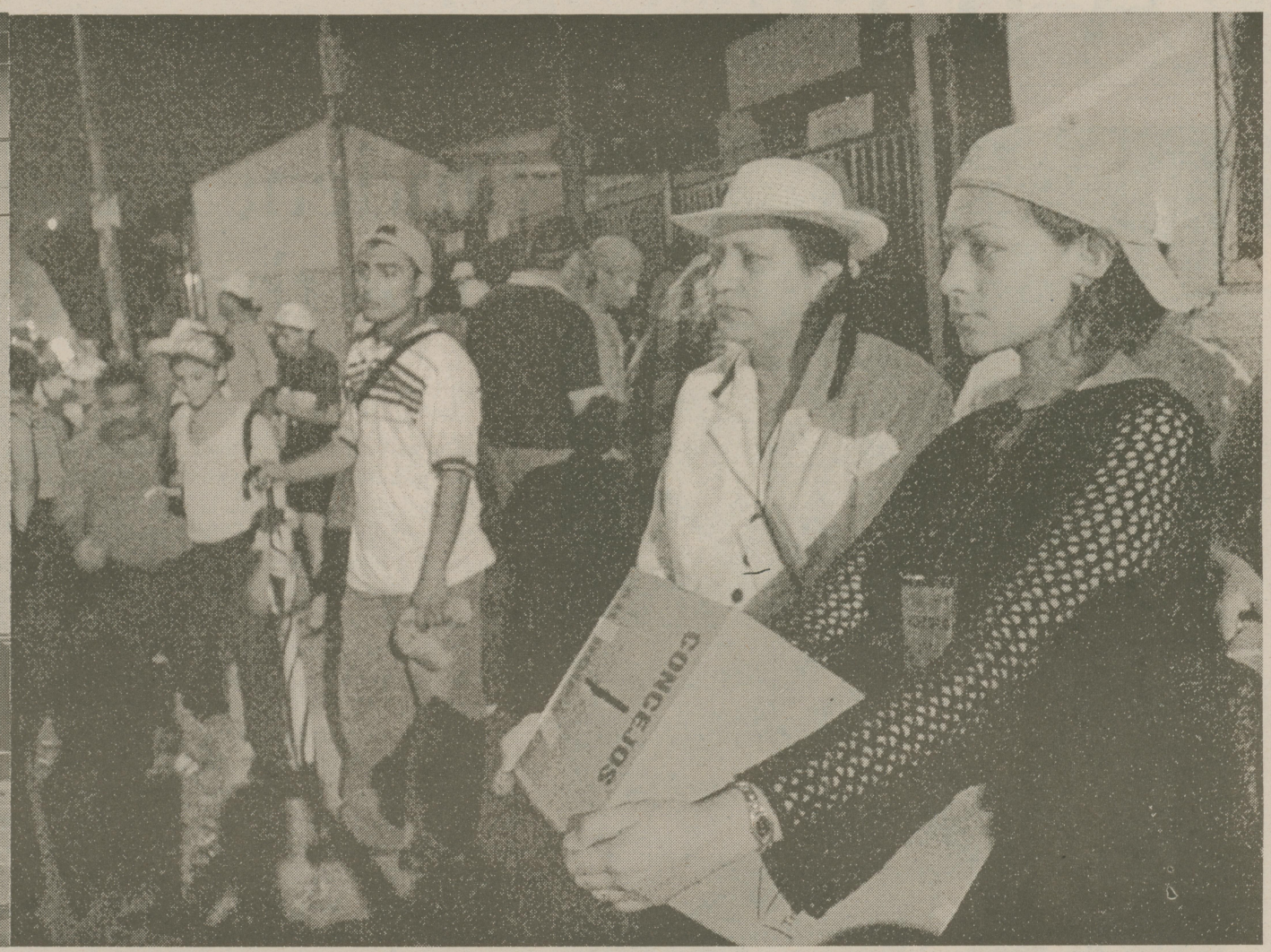
Critics of the agreement charge that this will mean a decrease in the availability of generic drugs, privatization of services such as education, health care, energy and water utilities and an increase in corporate domination of manufacturing and agriculture. The fear is that it will also give companies the right to sue governments over public-interest laws that may limit their profits and to privately challenge labour laws like those that protect workers' safety.

With the FMLN campaigning against CAFTA, it's clear that what's at stake in these elections is control. Presidents set agendas, and whatever party gains power will decide how El Salvador's human and natural resources will be managed.

And Salvadorans take their politics seriously. While we were there in March 2003, there were massive protests against issues relating to CAFTA. A huge demonstration took place one hot morning as doctors, nurses and medical personnel, along with their supporters, jammed the streets of the capital. Hordes of people rolled like a wave through downtown San Salvador. Dressed in white, some with painted faces, they brandished hand-painted placards and carried effigies of El Salvador's President Flores and Uncle Sam.

A mirror to the past

Police and government surveillance is still strong in El Salvador. Consider the case of Simone Stothers, delegations coordinator for the Centre of Interchange and Solidarity (CIS), which helped organize our trip. CIS remains critical of the ARENA push for free trade agreements with the



battling its former civil war enemy in the upcoming

On election night, authorities didn't have the capacity to receive the last ballot boxes until 5 a.m. the next morning. People went without sleep, and some boxes were simply abandoned.

U.S., which has placed Stothers, a Canadian who studied at the University of Toronto, in a challenging position.

After the election last May, Stothers helped organize respiratory tests for women who work in El Salvador's *maquilas*–textile or garment factories often called sweatshops. The companies who own these factories are mostly foreign, and have been contracted by clothing labels such as The Gap and Liz Claiborne.

"The work is low-paid, working conditions are usually poor, and most union-organizing efforts are squashed," Stothers says.

Maquila rights workers are a sore point in El Salvador. Stothers and the other organizers, a university delegation from Milwaukee and a Salvadoran women's organization, hoped the test results might be used to demand improvements in working conditions for the mostly female maquila workforce.

The study consisted of three sessions of simple breathing tests, with 40 female participants. On the day of the second session, Stothers arrived to find the Salvadoran immigration police waiting at the office where the tests were being held. They took down the passport numbers and full names of all delegation members.

It turned out Stothers was already well known to the police. In July 2003, she left El Salvador to spend a month with friends and family in Canada. When she returned in August, her entry was barred at the Salvadoran airport and she was deported to Guatemala.

After a months-long international letter writing campaign and pressure from human rights groups and the German and U.S. Embassies, Stothers was allowed to apply for a limited visa. During this process she was initially denied assistance from the Canadian consulate in El Salvador. It wasn't until other countries became involved that the Canadian government agreed to help.

Stothers is still waiting in Guatemala for an answer.

War on campus

Under the guidance of members of the ARENA party, the death squads wreaked havoc on the Salvadoran people. Suppressing criticism of the government in any form, men like Major D'Aubuisson made El Salvador another land of the disappeared.

Eugenio Alvarado, one of El Salvador's FMLN representatives in Canada, experienced the brutality of wartime El Salvador first hand. Alvarado emigrated to Canada in 1984, but the days of the civil conflict are still fresh in his mind.

"We are the aftermath of a civil war sponsored by the United States that, until the early '90s, they tried to cover up," he says. "That is not something that is new, it has been our history since the Spanish conquistadores showed up on our shores. The Spanish forced the Indians to work as slaves for them and that tradition has continued. It just changed into the American hands."

Alvarado and I met at his house in a quiet neighbourhood in Victoria. A cheerful man with dark brown eyes, he shared his account of his time during the civil war. As a young man, Alvarado started studies at the National University in San Salvador in 1976.

"It was hell," he says. "Just the fact that you were a university student, meant you were considered a subversive. There was a building on campus that held the death squad. It was a daily occurrence to find girls with their breasts cut and bottles in their vaginas. With the males they would cut off their genitals and put them in their mouths."

When U.S. President Ronald Reagan came to power in 1980 and American funding to the Salvadoran army increased, the death squad didn't make any secret that they would step up the repression. The army launched a campaign to crush every bit of resistance in El Salvador. Official estimates of the number of deaths that resulted go to 75,000, but Alvarado figures in reality the death count is higher. During the conflict, relatives would not speak out against disappearances in their families, or claim their bodies, for fear of reprisal.

"You just forget about it because if you go and say, 'that's my son, that's my uncle,' they are going to come after you," he says. "If you identified a body, you would be compromised."

In 1979, Alvarado transferred to José Matías Delgado University, a private university in San Salvador where he studied business administration.

"My classmates and I wrote a paper for our economics class about the problem of unequal distribution of wealth and the high poverty level," he says.

The paper was passed on to government security forces and Alvarado and his friends were labelled as communists. A few days after handing the paper in, Alvarado sat in the cafeteria talking with six of his classmates and having coffee. When it came time to leave, there were three cars waiting for them on the street. Alvarado and his friends were taken to the police station where they were beaten and thrown in jail.

"You could hear the screams of women being raped in the cells and guys being tortured with electrical shocks to their genitals," he says. "They used to take out a guy from my cell, pull the nails out on his hands and then bring him back after two hours and say, 'You will be next.'"

Alvarado believes he was lucky because he attended a private university and therefore was perceived to know people with some political influence. He was finally released.

"If we had been at the National University, they would probably have just taken us for a trip, dumped us somewhere and nobody would have known," Alvarado says. "I don't even know how people went to school with that. There were deaths every day, everywhere."

Alvarado is still working and committed to social justice in his country, keeping informed, communicating with friends and family back in El Salvador and telling his story whenever he can.

"We feel it is our duty to tell Canadians, our children and anybody we come across what happened there," he says. "That is really our history. A country or society without a past or history doesn't exist.

"You can't go anywhere if you don't know where you are coming from."

What happens next

We spent election day touring polling stations around the small country, meeting political candidates and reporting on what we saw. The election was fairly peaceful, and the FMLN made significant gains in representation. The presidential election, scheduled for March 21, 2004, will decide what happens next.

I still remember the day I spent at UCA and the Romero Centre Museum. The bloody clothes and the textbooks riddled with bullet holes are displayed behind glass with a map of where the bodies were found. The museum also has graphic photos of the priests' bodies after they were discovered.

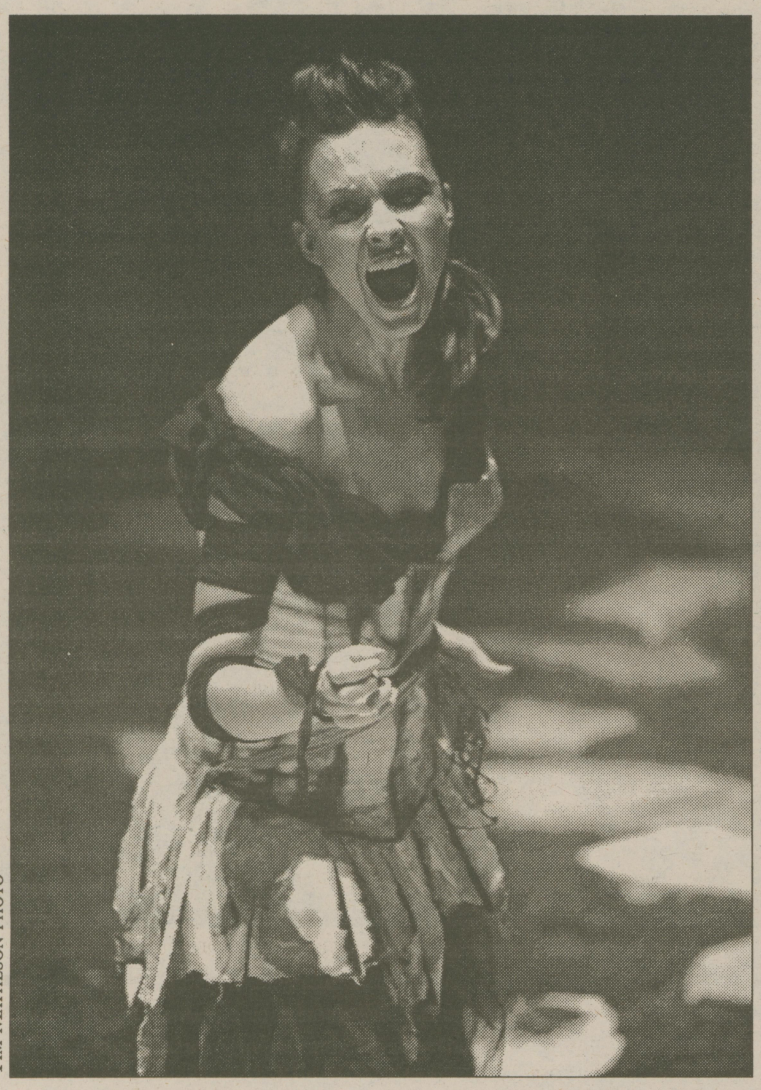
For a North American like myself, it seemed strange to keep these violent images in a photo album for all to see, but given the history of El Salvador, it makes perfect sense. The veneer of civility and law that we take for granted in Canada, and on campus at UVic, is a luxury the Salvadoran people don't have. We assume that violent events won't take place on campus, that a student or professor would never be brutally slain in front of the Student Union Building.

Though these pictures, with their twisted poses and splattered brains, are hard to look at, they are a clear way for the world to remember what happened during the war. With continued U.S. intervention in Salvadoran domestic policy, it is also a reminder of what could happen again.

The most poignant picture for me in the photo album was the bodies of the housekeeper, Julia Elba Ramos, and her daughter Celina Mariset Ramos. In the photo, they lie on the floor next to a plain couch, cradling each other.

Our guide, a student at UCA, told us that on that day in 1989, a soldier told the women to wait in the lounge while they searched for the six priests throughout the residence. As they waited in the room, they listened to the noise, gun shots and perhaps the cries of the men they worked for. When the soldier returned, he told Julia and Celina to lie on the floor together.

Then he shot them.



TIM MATHESON PHOTO

UVic student Marisa Smith stars in the title role of Sophocles' ancient tragedy, *Electra*, part of the Festival of Innovative and New Drama at the Phoenix Theatre

Student *Electra* production sings the body electric

BY MAX LAMB

Out of more than 120 plays that Sophocles penned, only a few are still performed today. One of these is the classic *Electra*, which is currently playing at the Phoenix Theatre as part of the Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND).

The director behind this classic is Britt Candide Small, who is in her last year in the UVic MFA program. She was the assistant director of the Phoenix Theatre's production of *The Taming of the Shrew*, and has won the Monday Magazine Critic's Choice award for best direction with her production of *Circus Fire*.

Small's direction places emphasis on dramatic physical activity and movement, an approach evident in *Electra*.

"The body is such an important tool for actors," says Small. "Movement acts as a secondary text–a vocabulary made up of gestures, patterns, shapes and tempos." This is especially true for *Electra*, as every character exhibits a unique series of movements which work just as well as dialogue. This production would have a good chance of conveying its story even if there were no words at all.

Featured in this orgasm of physical vocabulary are many of the cast members from *The Taming of the Shrew*, including Marisa Smith, Melissa Bates, Meg Braem, Beth Scozzafava, and the always delectable Katie Hood.

Scozzafava, Hood, and Kathlene McGuinness hold the show together formidably as the Greek Chorus. Instead of typical Greek tragedies staged today, this Chorus is not presented as a unified statement of narration.

Small instead creates a euphoric, staccato rhythm of chants and musical harmonies that go against each other at every interval. The chorus introduces the play with bizarre dances and gestures, and truly sets up the madness to come.

This is one of the play's strongest points: every character is absolutely insane. They are certifiably nuts. Utter lunacy underlines each character's motions and movements as they define their persona and intentions.

Leading the cast is Marisa Smith as Electra, the daughter of the murdered King Agamemnon. Electra inveighs against her mother and new stepfather for murdering the King, and devises a plan to murder her mother.

Smith is in her fourth year in UVic's acting program, and is the absolute highlight of the show. Her performance was loud, harsh and subtly mesmerizing. With her character central to all of the play's devices and twists, she melds herself into the broken, vengeful, maniacal mantra that is Electra.

Small's direction was the perfect opportunity for Smith to test her vocal talents. "We worked a lot with the rhythms of characters," says Smith. "It was a lot of 'vocal jamming.' That's whatever sound that comes to your character. In the first two weeks of rehearsing, it was mostly improv. It allowed us to look at the muscle of the play, and see what solo and sound went with each individual character."

Matt Jackson's costume design adds perfectly to the energy of the play with his choice of traditional, yet outlandish clothing. Each costume reflects each player, from the regal garments of Clytemnestra (Bates) to the tight, leather ensemble of Orestes (Chad Wood). Jen Braem's lighting is spot-on with a hint of blue tint over the centre of the stage, and slight shadow over the backdrop of the sides of the performing area.

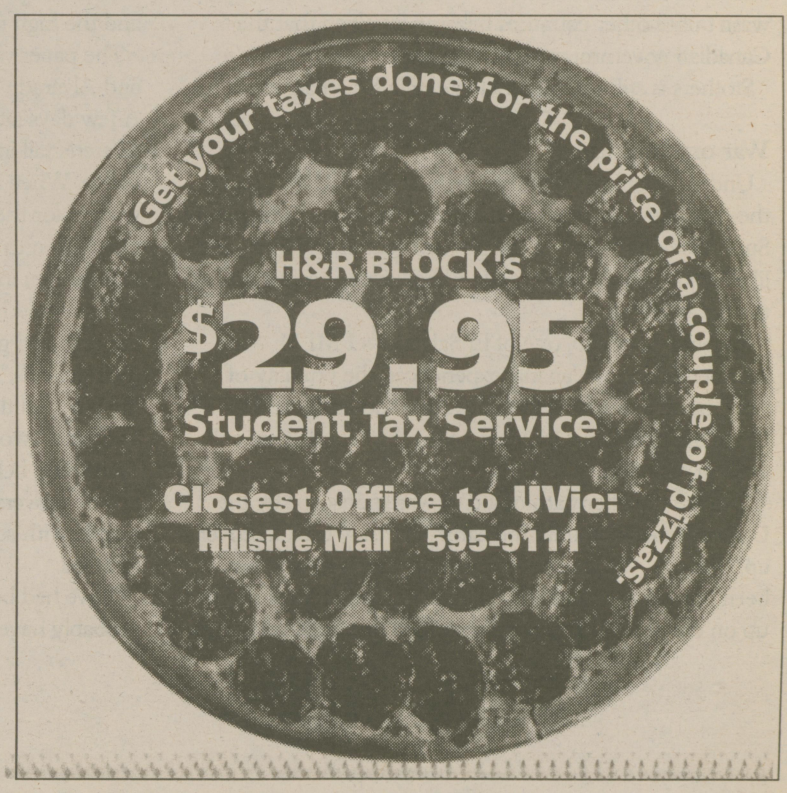
The set, however, was not as good as the rest of the production. Though the revolving circular platform in the centre was perfect for a sense of theatre-in-the-round, the props in the background gave little to the actors to work with, and could be just as easily removed.

Electra is no light entertainment. In Ancient Greece, attending a play was more a person's obligation, rather than simple escapism.

Small says "So much and so little has changed in 25 centuries. Today we may attend theatre out of an escapist desire for an evening's entertainment, rather than any sense of civic duty. But I think there is still a heartbeat of primal longing that draws us together in dark rooms to share our most daring hopes and worst fears."

Needless to say, *Electra* is no love story for puppy dogs. Though it is an ancient classic, this play can still throw new punches in the face of modern theatre. It is as precise and calculated as the work of its murderous protagonist. *Electra* may not be a feel-good romp through lollipop rainbows, but this production will definitely leave its mark both on FIND enthusiasts and the occasional theatregoer with its voice of artful insanity.

Electra *plays at UVic's Phoenix Theatre March 11, 12 & 13 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on Saturday, March 13 at 2 p.m.*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PROVIDED PHOTO

Mike McCormick, Chris Patterson, and Trevor Strong nosh on *Toast!*

The Worms return

BY GRAHAM STARK

If you ask someone to name a Canadian music comedy group, they probably only have one answer: The Arrogant Worms.

Formed in Kingston, Ontario, the Worms have been around for over a decade and the trio is currently on tour promoting their tenth album, *Toast!* You'll probably find their albums in the "folk" section of your record store, though that's simply the easiest way to classify them. "Our main thing has always been to borrow from lots of different musical styles," says Chris Patterson, singer and bassist, and their newest release is no different.

"The songs on *Toast!* are ideas that have been in our head for about a year now," says Patterson. "We spent some time at the Banff Centre–they have little artist colony buildings where you can do a residency, and much to our surprise, made full use of our time." The Worms then hit the studio and brought in "the usual suspects" for their studio band. After recording the tracks, however, they wanted to see how some of the songs worked live, so they did some shows and recorded that as well. The result is a mostly live-recorded album, with some studio clean up and The Worms' in-between-song chatter left in. "It's a live album of all-new material. Which is kinda scary," says Patterson.

Retaining the feeling and banter of a live show is a smart idea because, as good as their albums are, it's the live shows that really keep The Arrogant Worms fans coming back. The Worms have performed repeatedly across Canada, on Canada Day in Ottawa, in Australia, at Disneyland, in New York's Central Park and many other locations in the U.S.

For such a fiercely Canadian band, you might think they wouldn't work in the States, but that's not the case. "For the most part, Americans like the Canadian material. We make fun of ourselves first before anything else," explains Patterson, "and we do a lot of anthems. Americans go crazy for anthems." In fact, almost a third of their work is in America now, following the success of their first U.S. release, a best-of album titled, *Gift Wrapped*. "Every once in a while we see *Gift Wrapped* in an American record store, and that's a pretty big deal for a little cottage operation out of Canada."

Being well known does have its pitfalls for The Worms. Due to Internet file sharing, some songs by another Canadian folk/comedy trio, Three Dead Trolls in a Baggie, are very often attributed to the Worms, most notably "The War of 1812" and "Toronto Sucks."

"It is our curse, it would seem," says Patterson, "We've been around long enough that the assumption is that if it's guys singing a funny song with Canadian references, then it must be us. We get so much e-mail about the songs and people are always yelling at us to play them."

It does make for amusing encounters at shows when the Worms can single out people and say, "Oh, so you're the criminal who's downloading music! The Internet has lied to you!" before returning to their quirky Canadian comedy as only they can do it.

The Arrogant Worms perform Thursday, March 11 at Alix Goolden Hall. Their new album, Toast!, *is out now.*

Elephants trample over musical genres

BY VANESSA NEUMAN

Indie folk isn't a term you hear bandied about much these days, but if you're looking for a description of what Victoria's Elephant Island sounds like, that's probably the one you're going to get.

"I guess that's a good starting point," shrugs Galen Hartley, one of the band's two guitarists. He and accordion player Jamie Cummins tentatively agree with the definition, but they seem a bit uncomfortable to be confined to one sub-genre, or even one genre.

"It is kind of folky because it's got the acoustic instruments and it's got the accordion," says Hartley. "There's [also] a lot of pop hooks and chord structures. Melodically and lyrically it's not your basic folk stuff. We're just trying to do something interesting with a lot of different influences."

"I hate that question," states Cummins, with a slight smile. "[It's like] what kind of cool words and jargon can you cram together to correctly identify your band and let people know what they're going to come and listen to? We don't have a genre."

Maybe, but they do have a distinctive sound. With the acoustic guitars, accordion, a drum kit and all four members sharing singing duties, Elephant Island aren't what you usually hear at a Victoria show. Nor do their shows provide a "typical" atmosphere: even at bar gigs audience members have been known to sit cross-legged on the floor during their set.

PROVIDED PHOTO

Easy listening with Elephant Island–almost as easy as watching guitarist Galen Hartley's amazing mustache.

"I find audiences are entirely random for how they're going to percieve your band at any moment in time anyway," says Hartley. "Sometimes they talk through it all and sometimes they shut up."

Because they're acoustic, the band is very reliant on the venue and how well that they can hear each other on stage.

"Somewhere like the Second Story is easier for us because the stage sound is much quieter and people aren't drinking and talking over top of you. There isn't that struggle."

After taking a break for more than three months while Hartley explored Europe, they're getting back into the scene and are about to release a six-song EP they recorded before he left the country. Not having a whole lot of money at the time, the disc was recorded quickly–live with a few overdubs.

"It's pretty much what we sounded like live at the time," says Hartley. "It turned out pretty good, but I think next time we want to experiment with production a little bit more, get more of a range."

As for plans for the next year, the band would like to tour a bit and play some more shows.

"What more can a band ask for, [but] more shows and more recording?" asks Hartley.

Elephant Island play at Second Story Café and Bookstore on March 19, the same day of their EP release.

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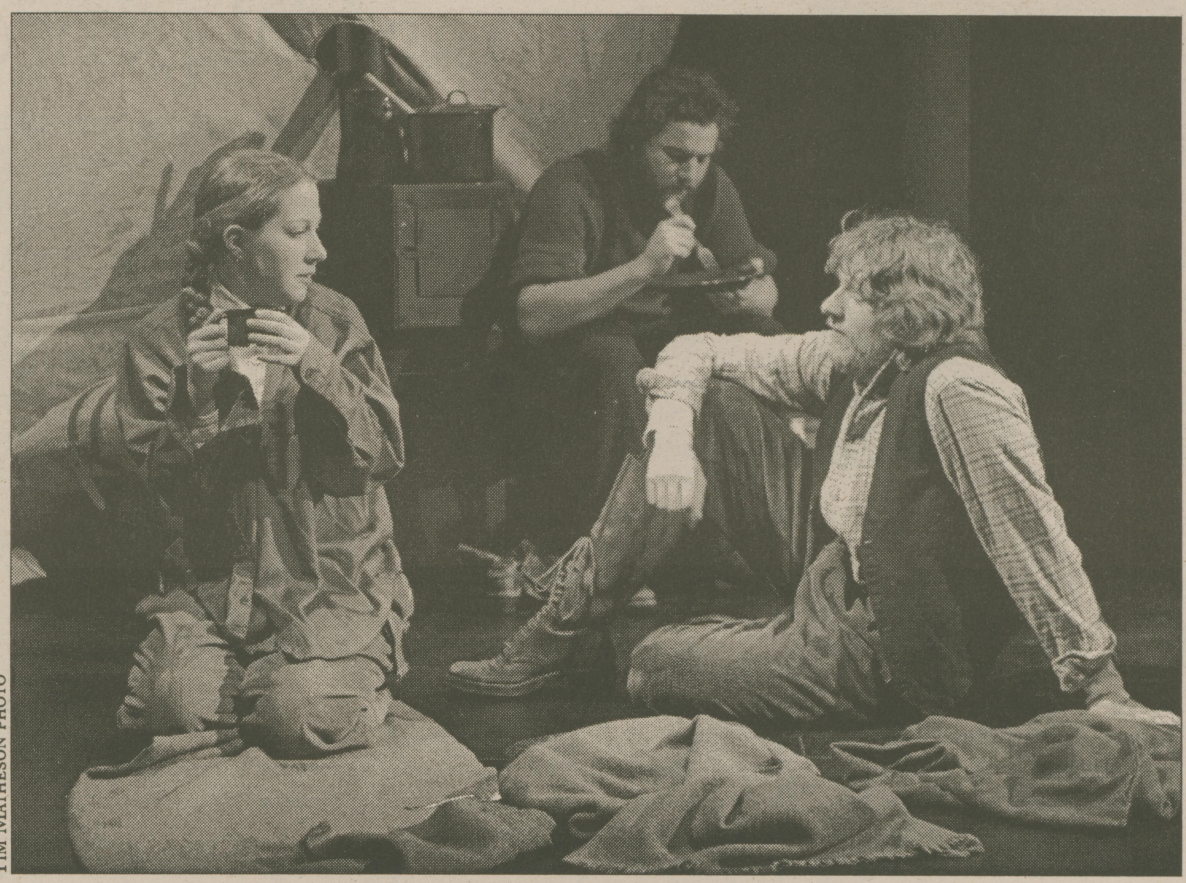
FIND strikes gold with Klondike adventure

by Geraldine Bulosan



Tim Matheson photo

UVic theatre students Karen Taylor, David Ward (foreground) and Douglas Scott Bates star in Sally Clark's new epic Klondike adventure, *Wanted*, playing at the Phoenix Theatre until March 13 as part of the Festival of Innovative and New Drama.

Wanted is an absorbing play about people willing to endure hardship in the desperate and delusional hope that it will lead to a life of economic ease.

In July of 1896, thousands of prospectors flooded into Victoria and other city ports to board ships going up to the Klondike. The play opens with brief documentary footage of people and ships that alternate with actors telling the audience why they were going up to the Klondike.

No one knew that by this time all the claims were taken–until they arrived in Dawson City with no food, no opportunity for work, and with winter rapidly approaching.

Written by UVic's playwright-in-residence Sally Clark, the play is based on Klondike gold rush stories she read during her stay at Berton House–the childhood home of Pierre Berton, now a writer's retreat.

In *Wanted*, brothers Jack and Joe (played respectively by David Ward and Douglas Scott Bates) travel along the Yukon River to Dawson City. Jack is the younger brother and sees the trip as an adventure, but Joe has the beginnings of gold fever and is focused on getting to Dawson as quickly as possible. The arduous monotony of travel was well emphasized by day and night lighting (designed by William Mackwood), and an effectively minimal set of shifting mountain peaks and small platforms, which served as the terrain (designed by Brian Perchaluk).

As with many stories, the power-struggle begins when the brothers meet a woman, Mary (played by Karen Taylor), the only survivor from an ill-fated travelling party. Jack and Mary soon fall in love, but tensions among the trio rise until the brothers discover that Mary is not the woman she pretends to be.

In contrast to the stark tension and quiet character moments of the first act, the second act, set in Dawson City, is full of songs and vaudeville-style humour that evoke the era. The colourful spirit works well amidst the unfolding drama of the play. Scenes smoothly shift from barren hills, a city street and various saloons that are distinguished from each other with a few props and specific cast to establish each location.

Throughout the play every character waits to swindle the next sucker, whether it's giving false news about an undiscovered claim, the dance hall girls sweet-talking the men out of their money, or the proto-"snuff" show which Clark says was the inspiration for *Wanted*. In this carny act, a man was apparently hanged in front of a paying audience. Just when it looked like he was about to die, the curtain closed, leaving its audience wondering if they really witnessed a hanging.

This is K. Scott Malcolm's directorial debut and he has a good, solid cast to work with. Bates' performance was particularly good in expanding Joe's character from the hostile, gold-hungry prospector to the older brother that Jack loves and admires despite his deep flaws.

The performance of light-hearted Jack, by Ward, was an effective foil which never felt one dimensional.

The character of Mary was thoughtfully portrayed by Taylor. She gave a convincing depiction of a woman who discovers her sexuality as a way to achieve economic stability but sacrifices her own happiness.

Wanted *plays at UVic's Phoenix Theatre until March 13, as part of the Festival of Innovative and New Drama (FIND).*

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Snoop Dogg's guide to good livin'

On his attempts to "educate the kids"
What I mean by educating the kids has nothing to do with my music. It's more about me personally, as far as the struggle that I went through in life and how I've made the U-turn of being on the wrong side, as far as being an ex-drug dealer, ex-gang banger. Now being something of a positive role model.

On how he stays so slim and attractive
I do a lot of pushups and I run a lot. I just try to stay on my toes and do the right things with my life.

On his stopping his involvement with the *Girls Gone Wild* videos
I have my own little private *Girls Gone Wild* Mardi Gras going down, do you know what I'm saying?

On his views on gay marriage
They want to tie the knot and go all the way with it. Let them go.

On his luxury cars
My Cadillac Snoop DeVille is a Cadillac 2002 with the diamond in the back, sunroof top, so I can dig the scene. . . . It's got the 10-inch DVD player screens, mink on the seats, vogue ties, with the dames and fly goddesses in the front.

On how he keeps his pimp hands so strong
I do a lot of exercises with 40 ounce bottles, you dig?

On how he keeps his hair so flat
You know, I eat right, take a lot of vitamins, and I keep my back-field in motion.

On the hardest part of being a true player
Telling certain women no.

Collated from a teleconference call with the venerable Snoop Doggy Dogg.

PROVIDED PHOTO

What's my name? Why, it's Huggy Bear, of course! Snoop Dogg in the guise of his alter-ego Huggy Bear in the new release *Starsky & Hutch*.

Snoop shines like bling in *Starsky & Hutch*

BY BRIONY SMITH

Jay Sherman, star of television's now-defunct cartoon *The Critic*, once urged viewers to avoid all films based on television shows. This is information one should heed when considering whether to see the latest installment of the TV-to-movie genre, *Starsky & Hutch*.

In this remake of the popular cop television series from the late '70s, Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson play David Starsky and Ken "Hutch" Hutchinson, police officers in "Bay City" who are thrown together as punishment for their unorthodox ways. They stumble upon a floater in the bay, the body of a flunky pushed off a yacht owned by the coke czar Reese Feldman (Vince Vaughn). This sets off a chain of events that allow the pair to put their dubious crime-fighting skills to work while jiving about against the backdrop of familiar '70s cultural stereotypes, like discotheques and tight pants.

The plot may be paper-thin, but silly movies like this can be enjoyable despite the plot wheezing under its burden of tiresome clichés.

Todd Phillips' film has none of the above.

The '70s kitsch that fills the screen does not inspire laughs because it is merely depicted, rather than satirized. It is expected that the sight of Stiller with a perm or Wilson with his shag will be funny enough, but it isn't. In a teleconference call, Wilson was quick to note the downfalls of working on a period piece. "It was a little nightmarish to have to see Ben wearing those tight jeans every day. It was a little tough to watch that."

The lack of hilarity is disappointing, as Owen Wilson and Ben Stiller are talented comedians who have made some tremendous movies together (including *Meet the Parents* and *The Royal Tenenbaums*). The standard Stiller n' Wilson trademarks–half-cocked nerd versus laid-back cool–would fit beautifully with the diametric duo of Starsky and Hutch, but the screenplay–written by John O'Brien, Todd Phillips, and Scot Armstrong–does not provide any good gags for the two to exploit their talents, leaving their trademark character traits merely annoying and adrift in scene after scene of boring comedy and stupid gags.

The jokes that exist don't work very well, like an unexpectedly eloquent gangsta dissecting the state of Luxembourg. Parts of the film fall embarrassingly flat, such as the scene where an Asian suspect tells the partners that all white people look the same to him, to which Hutch replies, "Yeah, you all look the same to us [knowing chuckle] Orientals." Although this might be evidence of the devil-may-care politically incorrect '70s attitude that Stiller and Wilson found "fun to try and play," it still rings hollow, as it doesn't make a point, nor does it amuse the audience.

There are some giggles, though, during scenes which play on the homoerotic subtext of the original testosterone-laden show, such as when the boys, clad in the tiniest of towels in the shower-room, have a heart-to-heart. The flaming subtext was Stiller-approved, though, since he stated, "Homoerotic, fun: same thing!"

Perhaps to counter a certain flamey-ness, fans of the original series will be pleased to see the hot crimson Ford Torino back in action. Wilson laughed, "The most dangerous stunt that I did was riding in the car with Ben."

The only vaguely humorous parts in the film come from the smaller roles of police informant Huggy Bear (played by Snoop Dogg) and Big Earl (in a cameo by Will Ferrell). But the sad fact is that these roles inspire mirth not so much because they're well-written, but because of the actors' status as comedic icons–the Doggfather for his entertainment empire, and Ferrell as everyone's favourite funnyman. Their very faces appearing onscreen provoked screams and guffaws of pleasure to ripple through the theatre.

Ferrell's performance as a man on the inside was one that Stiller and Wilson enjoyed as well. "I remember laughing a lot when Will Farrell came out and did his scene, because he was so ridiculous and he played it so straight. He's just one of those guys who obviously makes everybody laugh," said Stiller. "That was my favorite memory."

Snoop Dogg, too, had a blast on the set, saying that Stiller and Wilson were fun to work with. "They make my job easy. . . . Hopefully, they'll call me for another role in another picture that they're working on. I'll be Sammy Davis."

Snoop Dogg, who didn't even have to audition for the role, knew he was right for the part of the super-fly Huggy Bear right from the beginning. "[I] made sure that nobody else would get this part." Once he got to the set, Snoop Dogg was pleased to find that the stars made him feel like one of them–"All the actors made me feel like an actor. They made me feel real comfortable and I really appreciated that."

Clad in coloured furs, toting a pimp-stick around (topped with a solid gold fist) and commanding people, "Don't touch the Bear!", Snoop Dogg steals the show, leaving much more of an impression on the viewer than the bland caricatures filled by the banked essences of Stiller and Wilson.

Snoop Dogg, always a media maven, seemed to intuit that he is one of the only bright spots in the blah *Starsky & Hutch* (and that perhaps his talents are better-suited to other projects) when he said, "I do think Huggy needs to spin off and have his own thing, but we'll eventually wait for it to grow and see what it does in the box office. We'll take it from there."

The resulting project would be far more entertaining than this recycled junk.

One can only hope that Stiller and Wilson use their powers for good next time–perhaps Wilson could use the $10,000,000 he made for *Starsky & Hutch* to develop a decent film for Stiller and himself, one that isn't a stale copy of a show that wasn't any good in the first place. Jay Sherman spoke the truth–avoid this film and rent *The Royal Tenenbaums* instead.

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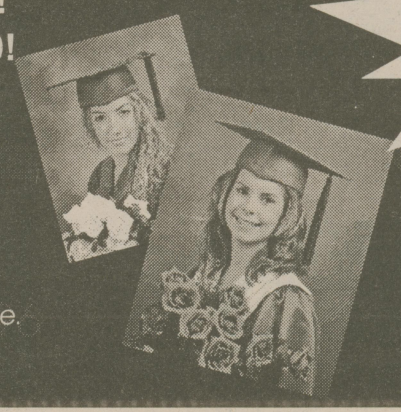

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Strummer exits with a bang

by Richard McDevitt

Joe Strummer and The Mescaleros
Streetcore
Hellcat/Epitaph

Upon their arrival to the London music scene in 1977, New Musical Express declared the Clash were "the only band that matters." Though that assertion was somewhat hyperbolic and outlandish, at the time, it was in certain ways true. The London economy was in the gutter and squatting was rampant. The Clash gave a voice to the disaffected youth whose future was questionable.

In 2003, the Clash were finally canonized by the music industry with their induction to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

At the height of their success, the Clash came to an abrupt halt. The band members went separate ways. Co-leader, guitarist and vocalist Mick Jones collaborated with Strummer on Jones' second post-Clash effort with his band Big Audio Dynamite. Strummer himself released a solo album in 1989 only to receive mediocre, often scathing reviews.

So, when Joe Strummer decided to get a fresh band together and release albums again, the pressure was on to see if Strummer would be able to match what he accomplished in the Clash. Doubt was put to rest when Strummer released his debut with the Mescaleros, *Rock Art and the X-Ray Style.* It showed Strummer in top form, his voice still in surprisingly good shape.

His second album, *Global A Go Go* also received praise from both critics and fans. Clash supporters were happy to see their hero back to work after his ten-year absence. And then in 2002, Joe Strummer died of heart failure just two days before Christmas.

At the time of his death, Strummer was working on his third album with the Mescaleros. Fortunately, most of the songs were near completion. It was decided by the other band members and Strummer's widow, Lucinda, that the tracks would be completed and released.

The result is *Streetcore.* It's the most versatile of Strummer's releases. It touches on folk, country, reggae and even dance music. People who couldn't get through the racket of Clash songs like "White Riot" and "Career Opportunities" will be surprised to hear songs like the folk tinged "Long Shadow" and the elegiac "Ramshackle Day Parade." "Coma Girl" indicates that Strummer is keeping up with modern punk bands, many of whom were directly inspired by the Clash. The pinnacle of the album, and a major highpoint of Strummer's career, is the cover of Bob Marley's "Redemption Song." Rick Rubin (Red Hot Chili Peppers, Run-D.M.C.) produced the track with the intention that it would be a duet for Strummer and Johnny Cash.

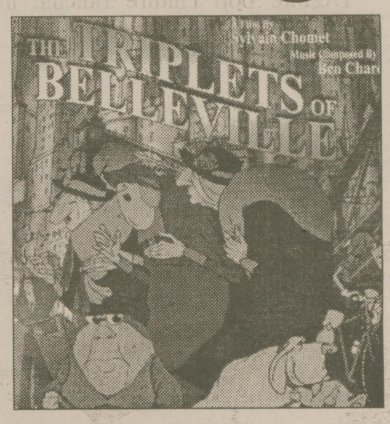
Streetcore is a fitting end to Strummer's formidable career. The final track "Silver and Gold" co-written between Strummer and Smokey Hormel (Beck, Tom Waits) encapsulates Strummer's unwavering ambition and contains the tragically ironic lyric "I'm gonna do everything silver and gold / And I got to hurry up before I grow too old." The Joe Strummer who penned in-your-face Clash rockers "London Calling" and "Clampdown" has been replaced by a more mature, wiser and reflective person.

This album shows a man fascinated to the end with the power of music and proves that Strummer's songwriting can be just as emotive without having to hide behind loud guitars.

Hoovers and fridges rock out

by John Thompson

The Triplets of Belleville
Original Soundtrack
EMI



Who knew a newspaper, a fridge and a vacuum cleaner could sound so great?

The soundtrack of the French animated film *The Triplets of Belleville,* which begins in the jazz joints of 1930s France, has all the jangly guitars, foot-stompin' rhythms and cooing vocals that made the movie so entertaining.

"Cabaret Hoover" is a short but whimsical song that seems to capture the creative spirit of the film and soundtrack. It is the high point of the album, filled with the rustle of newsprint. The clang of fridge racks. The ringing of bike spokes, then the lonely moaning of a Hoover. It takes the everyday and makes them sing.

I write this as someone who spends most his life driven by the mechanical thumps, bleeps and bloops of electronic music. Some people say this music is without a soul, but it provides my frenetic life with a steady pulse.

I found common cause with this album because I can play it in the background. Its lyrics make no sense to me, either in French or English, so it's not obtrusive. It gives the kitchen a vaguely European sophistication during those gloomy mornings as you crack eggs into a frying pan. Take your time! You're already half an hour late for work . . . .

There are at least three renditions of the theme song "Belleville Rendez-Vous," which is a good thing, since they keep the album afloat during its more tedious moments. Like *The Triplets of Belleville* itself, some tracks fall into the trap of crude caricature. Others are a bit of a bore, like the horns and strings in "French Mafia."

The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Music (Song), only to be beaten out by *Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King.* It is typical of the Academy to pick a schmaltzy, string-filled score that serves as a backdrop for an epic battle between good and evil over the sound of three old maids stomping out a tune in a kitchen, but the very fact that this album doesn't fit the Hollywood mold is probably the best indication of its worth. When was the last time you heard some 1930s jazz, for crying out loud? Give it a listen, if only because it's something different.

Take note that over-listening to this CD is not recommended. Like medicine, the liner notes should carry a recommended dosage. The music perfectly fits a cartoon, but listening to it gratuitously makes you feel like you're in a cartoon. That's why, as I type this, I'm grooving to my old robotic tunes.

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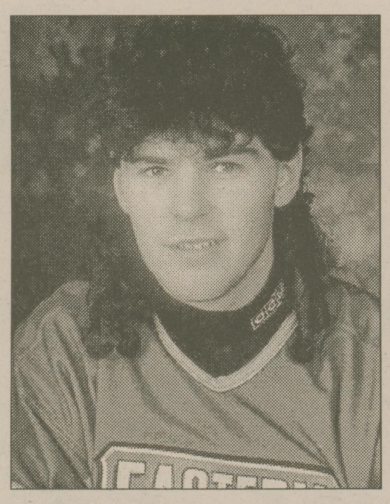
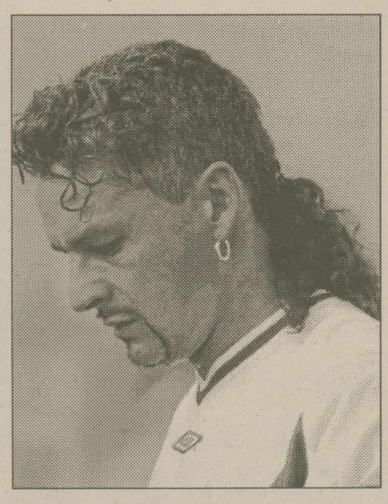
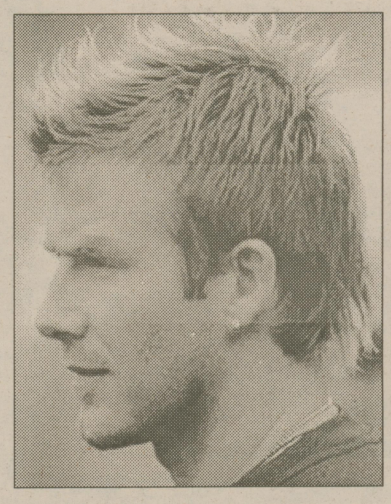
Venus Williams' hair has a second role as a hidden weapon.



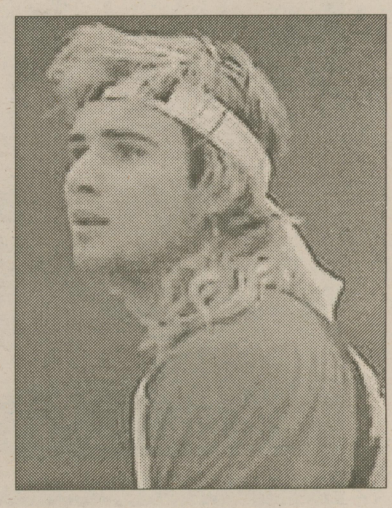
Jaromir Jagr lopped his mullet at the pleading of teamates.



Roberto Baggio was soccer's picturesque Italian stallion.



David Beckham now sets the ugly-hair trends for sports.



King offender of bad hair, Andre Agassi.

Sports hair hall of shame

BY SARAH PETRESCU

When it comes to hair trends, athletes are criminal.

While most celebrities can capitalize on a keen fashion sense, sports stars' hairdos are almost always "don't"s.

Granted, star athletes are at a disadvantage, with their glorious selves often covered up by gaudy, bright and all-the-same uniforms. Then there's the function element: it's hard to work your mojo under 50 pounds of padding or a bulky helmet. In fact, style-restricting uniforms may be the reason why so many athletes overcompensate with their hair.

Jock hair seems to occupy some weird space between form and function, which makes sense.

Take the mullet for example. Although the original short-long took root in the desert tribes of ancient Egypt, the induction of the mullet into hockey hair shame only began in the 1970s.

A seemingly ingenious effort to accommodate the growing popularity of long hair, the mullet allowed the athlete to comfortably wear his helmet and show his locks flowing out the bottom.

Pioneers of the mullet include Toronto Maple Leafs centre Darryl Sittler, who coupled his hockey hair with a bushy moustache for extra sex appeal in the seventies, and long-time mullet fiend Barry Melrose, who carried the short-long through four NHL teams, a coaching career and a broadcasting stint at the American all-sports channel ESPN.

Despite pop culture ridicule in movies like *Wayne's World* and *Fubar*, the mullet torch continues to burn strong, more recently by San Jose Shark Mike Ricci and former Pittsburg Penguin Jaromir Jagr.

Jagr, though, shocked the hockey world in 1999 by lopping off his famous spike-top, shoulder grazing coif. "No more girl stuff," he told reporters, even though his mullet was more eastern European biker/viking than feminine.

Of course, bad sports hair isn't limited to hockey. Every sport has its offenders, but they all seem to fit into a few categories of heinous style: corn rows, afros, copious color and, of course, mullets.

One of the greatest bad-hair delinquents of all time is tennis star Andre Agassi. From a full-feathered short-long to boldly colored bandanas and skull-hugging braids, Agassi has committed every tacky hair offense possible.

But, like the more recent hair-chameleon-cum-soccer-star David Beckham, Agassi made ugly hair sexy. Herein lies the lethal weapon of sports hair: tacky hair coupled with the corporeal sexiness of star athlete equals evil trend, not to be spread amongst the innocent, less sexy populace.

Women athletes don't often share the fame of their male counterparts. But where that fame is found, so are the cornrows. WNBA basketball star Rebecca Lobo and tennis' Venus and Serena Williams rocked the cornrows for years–often laden with enough beads to make their hair a hidden weapon.

As for the afro, it can be pulled off as long as its circumference doesn't get too out of hand, as Colorado Rapids soccer player Carlos Valderrama proves. His orange-dyed overgrown 'fro earned him both top honors in ESPN's bad-hair coverage and the nickname "carrot top."

Random hair criminals are often chastised by ESPN: basketball star Dennis Rodman was referred to as a "ketchup-soaked chia pet" for his colorful, yet patchy, dye job; boxing promoter Don King's hair was said to have been inspired by a troll doll; and Purdue Boilermakers head coach Gene Keady was chastised for a gruesome comb-over.

The station later pleaded with Keady to "go gently into the good night of baldness."

The countless examples of star athletes and their bad hair are proof that it's not always better to hit two birds with one stone. The fact that hairstyles do give athletes some small avenue of style expression is fine.

But since they also influence a massive populace of wannabe fans, sports hair that aims to mix form to function, but gruesomely fails, should remain a "don't."

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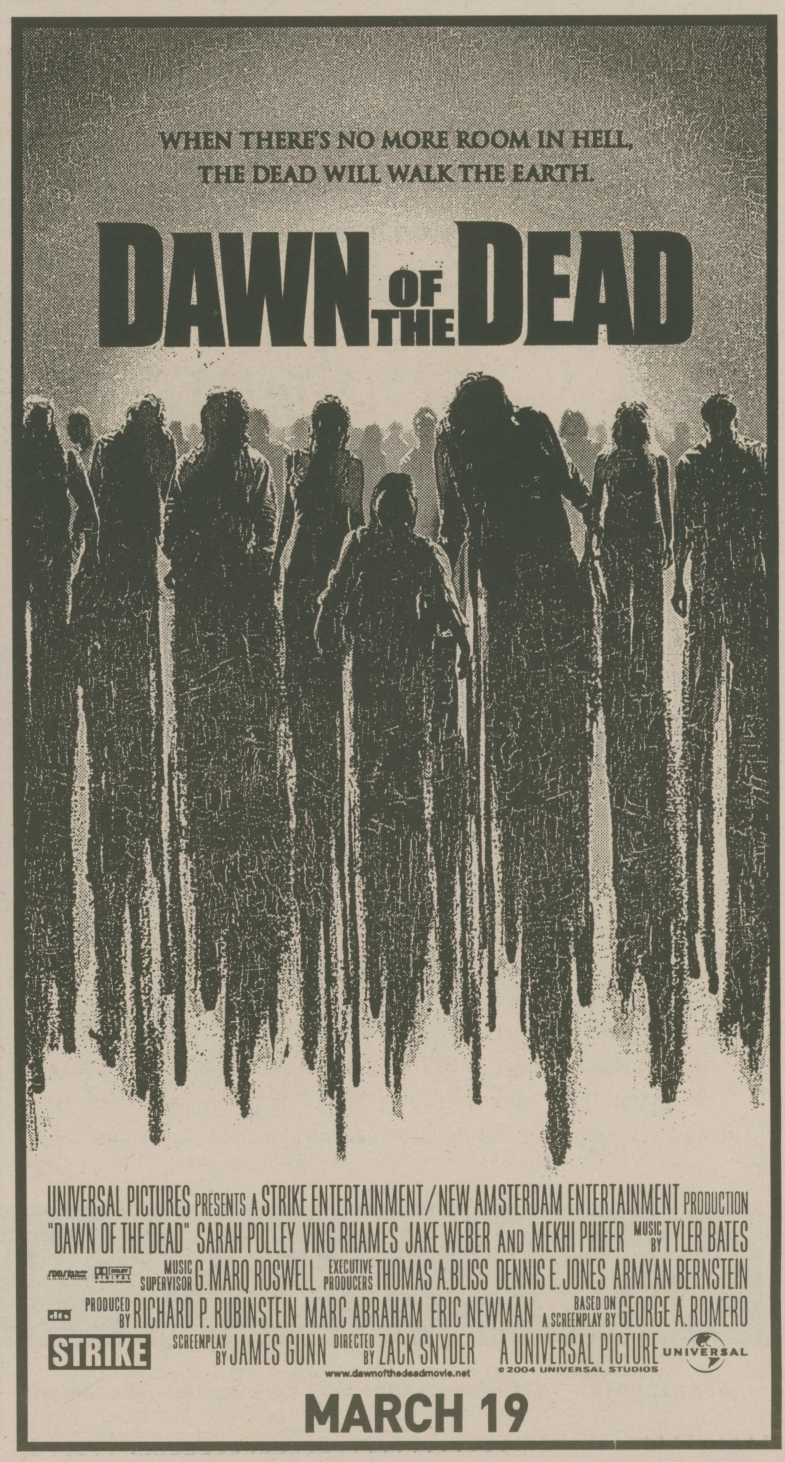
WHEN THERE'S NO MORE ROOM IN HELL,
THE DEAD WILL WALK THE EARTH.
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"DAWN OF THE DEAD" SARAH POLLEY VING RHAMES JAKE WEBER AND MEKHI PHIFER MUSIC BY TYLER BATES
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PRODUCED BY RICHARD P. RUBINSTEIN MARC ABRAHAM ERIC NEWMAN BASED ON A SCREENPLAY BY GEORGE A. ROMERO
STRIKE SCREENPLAY BY JAMES GUNN DIRECTED BY ZACK SNYDER A UNIVERSAL PICTURE UNIVERSAL
www.dawnofthedeadmovie.net
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MARCH 19

Heave!

Nic Hume photo

Members of the Vikes women's eights strain their way to a third-place finish at the Elk Lake regatta on Sunday, March 7. The team was joined on the podium by the men's fours, who finished third; the women's four, who finished first; the novice women's fours, who finished first; and the junior varsity men's fours, who finished first.

Sports briefs

Basketball

Trumpy, Beaucamp honoured by Canada West

Chris Trumpy, a third-year guard with the Vikes men's basketball team, was named the Canada West Defensive Player of the Year last week. Trumpy, an economics major, was an Academic All-Canadian last year and the Vikes "Rookie of the Year" in 2001-2002. He was also named as a second-team All-Star for this year.

Trumpy averaged 5.3 assists and 15.9 points per game this year for the Vikes. His assist total was the second-best in the highly competitive Canada West conference.

For interim head coach Craig Beaucamp, the season that began with a nightmare ended with a dream when he was named Canada West Coach of the Year by the Canada West Athletic Association.

Beaucamp went into the season expecting to serve as an assistant to long-time head coach Guy Vetrie. But after Vetrie died suddenly and tragically in September while jogging at UVic, Beaucamp was thrust unexpectedly in the head role.

In his first season as head coach, Beaucamp led a young Vikes team to an 11–9 record, just barely losing out on a playoff spot.

"It is always an honour to have your athletes and staff receive major awards," said Vikes Coordinator of Athletics James Keogh in a UVic press release. "It is exceptionally special this year after all that the team went through with the loss of our former coach Guy Vetrie in September. Chris and Craig are very deserving of these awards and we are very proud of them."

CIS National Swimming Championships

Dixon shatters more records

Vikes swimmer Stephanie Dixon was named an honorary All-Canadian after shattering two world records and nearly breaking a third at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships in Toronto last weekend.

On Friday, March 5, Dixon broke her own class S9 world record in the 400-metre individual medley in a time of 5:32.38. The mark was a full four seconds faster than the record Dixon set in January in Victoria.

The next night Dixon nabbed the 100-metre backstroke world record in a time of 1:08.95 before narrowly missing a third in the 400-metre freestyle.

Dixon, who has only one leg, moved to Victoria from Toronto last year to train with UVic and the elite Pacific Coast Swimming team.

Double bronze for Karley Stutzel

Fourth-year Vikes swimmer Karley Stutzel walked away with a pair of bronze medals from the CIS national championships in Toronto last weekend.

Stutzel finished the 400-metre freestyle on Saturday in 4:14.19, just under seven seconds behind the winning time of 4:09.49, posted by the University of New Brunswick's Carla Geurts-Cole.

Deciding that 400 metres was really only half as far as she'd like to swim, Stutzel came back the next night to win another bronze in the 800-metre freestyle.

Unfortunately for Stutzel, that was the only other freestyle race divisible by 400 that she was competing in. In an attempt at the 4x200-metre freestyle with teammates Danielle Bell, Erika Hunzinger and Laina Steeple, Stutzel came just short of another medal, finishing in fourth place.

Overall finishes

The Vikes women's swim team squeaked into the top 10 last weekend at the CIS national championships in Toronto. The Vikes finished in ninth place with 175 points. UBC won the event with 679 points, while the Calgary Dinos came a close second with 576.50 points.

The men ended up in 12th with 110 points, behind the winning UBC Thunderbirds, who had 521.50 points. Once again the Dinos finished second, this time with 479 points.

Rugby

Men's rugby hammered at Capilano

The Vikes men's rugby team suffered a setback in their quest to regain the B.C. Premier League title last weekend when they fell 20–5 to Capilano College in Vancouver.

UVic next sees action on Saturday at Wallace field against the Meralomas.

The following Wednesday, March 17, the Vikes will be looking to spread some St. Paddy's Day cheer against UBC in the second half of the annual Wightman "Boot Game." Game time is 2:30 p.m. at Wallace field.

Soccer

Vikes put on an exciting exhibition at Centennial stadium

The Vikes men's soccer team started the spring season with a resounding 4–1 exhibition win over Western Washington University last Saturday at Centennial stadium. Kingsley Jones, Sean Battistoni, Will Moore and Eric Waldriff all scored for UVic.

Earlier in the day the Vikes women's team slipped by WWU in a tight 1–0 game. Amelie Mercier had the lone Vikes goal.

Both teams are preparing for the annual Keg Spring Cup to be held March 27 and 28 at Centennial Stadium.

–Richard Warnica

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APRIL 3rd ~ April 6th

Due to a seismic upgrade, the Ian H. Stewart Fitness /Weight Centre will be temporarily relocated in to the field house area of the building. In order to facilitate this move, the Fitness/Weight Centre will be closed from April 3rd to 6th.

The Fitness/Weight Centre will reopen in it's temporary location on April 7th

The entire project is expected to take two to three months to complete. An additional week of closure will be required in order to return and secure all of the equipment in the Fitness/Weight Centre. You will be advised of those dates closer to the completion of the project.

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For More Information Please Contact:
Pete Lewis
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Athletics and Recreational Services
250.721.8725
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Athletics & Recreational Services
University of Victoria

Vikes still standing, ya, ya, ya

STEPHANIE BIALIK PHOTO

A member of the Vikes women's rugby team grapples with an opponent from Burnaby in last Saturday's B.C. Premier League match. The Vikes won the game 7–0 on the strength of a converted try from centre Charlotte Haley. UVic, now 4–8, play their final game of the regular season this Saturday the 13th against Nanaimo, in Nanaimo.

Vikes money train a local line

BY ZOË BAKE-PATERSON

To the common "sportus ignoramus," the $250,000 to $300,000 of private sport sponsorship at UVic is a huge amount. To a "sportus fanaticus," the amount is piddly.

In contrast to American athletics departments, where teams like the Georgia Bulldogs can pay $500,000 for football recruiting alone, it is hard to see it otherwise.

"Aside from the fact that we both put people in uniforms on the fields, they're not comparable," says James Keogh, the Coordinator for Athletics at UVic, speaking about college sports sponsorship in the United States versus sponsorship in Canada. "They're just too different."

Still, in a small city where money is hard to come by, UVic does a pretty good job supporting its 17 teams and approximately 300 student athletes.

"The goal is really to gain as much community support as possible," says Brent Dobbie, the Development Officer of UVic's athletic department. "We have 17 teams, 17 coaches and 300 athletes who are all working to raise money. Every $10 counts."

Dobbie's time is split between companies that already have deals with UVic, like Pepsi, Telus and Dairyland, and handling corporate sponsorship within the Victoria community. According to Dobbie, UVic's athletic department and the Vikes teams have between 40 and 50 private sponsors.

The money they generate is a long way from the numbers put up by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) in the United States. The NCAA recently signed a $500 million, 11-year contract with Coca-Cola and CBS.

One of the reasons for this is that in the United States, sponsorship involves fewer big marketers, like Nike and Coca-Cola, who get more freedom. In Canada, at least at UVic, sponsorship is more about community.

"There are 18,000 students and over 11,000 students use our facilities. When our sponsors see that, they want to be a part of it," says Dobbie. He points out that many companies use the free passes to UVic's athletic facilities that come with a corporate sponsorship deal.

Much of UVic's sponsorship comes from local companies, like the five businesses in Cadboro Bay that funded the $10,000 basketball shoot-out where a fan had a half-court shot for $10,000, or the local branch of the New Balance chain that supplies running shoes for the basketball and track and field teams.

"The most important part is getting cash . . . or things that will benefit student athletes," Dobbie says.

Despite the drive for sponsors, UVic is not a cash-grabber. Call it higher standards or maybe the luxury of facing less competition than American college sport teams, but Dobbie's approach to sponsorship and philanthropy is thoughtful. There is consideration over what sponsorship there is and should be. "Depending on who a company is, you always have to do your research and see what that company's about," says Dobbie. "We'd consider that first, but a lot hasn't come up."

Without the "big business" approach to sport teams, Canadian universities do not face the same challenges as their American counterparts. Sponsorship, while necessary to support the constant string of tournaments, facilities and equipment, does not make or break a university or college.

PROVIDED PHOTO

According to UVic's Coordinator for Athletics, James Keogh, athletics need private sponsorship to avoid being a "drain on the university."

"[Sports are] part of the University here. It's not driving the University like there," says Keogh.

But private sponsorship is still very much part of the reality. Colourful logos and brands grace many boards, banners and T-shirts across campus. And in an economic climate where government funding for university athletics, like every other sector of the university, is quickly drying up, that isn't likely to change soon.

"Athletics should not be a continuous drain on the university," says Keogh. "It will have to become more and more self-sufficient."

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On campus

Lox, Stock and Two Smoking Bagels
The Jewish Students Association Presents: A FREE BAGEL LUNCH Mon. March 15, 11:30–12:30, room TBA (SUB). Come shmooze with fellow Jews. For more info contact Revven at rbrandt@uvic.ca.

BAKE SALE – UVic Red Cross Club. March 12, 2004 in Clearihue. Come help support the UVic Red Cross Club. More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

WAR, CRIME and CONFLICT
UVic International Law Club Conference
Friday, March 19, 2004. 1:00 p.m.–5 p.m.
Free admission. Open to general public.
University of Victoria, Murray and Anne Fraser Building (formerly the Begbie building) – Room 158
http://ilc.law.uvic.ca/conference
ilc@lss.uvic.ca

Islam Awareness Week is an annual event that is hosted by all MSAs' across North America. During IAW, various activities are held in order to creat more awareness of Islamic issues on university campuses. Our theme this year is "God's Message to Muhammad" which focuses on Muhammad the Prophet and his message to mankind. Who was Muhammad? What was his message? Are his teachings different than Moses and Jesus? Why is Islam equated with terrorism?
Please come out to this event and get to know Muslims and know more about their faith. Free brochures and books, coffee and food will be given out.
Events March 17–19, 2004 Student Union Building, Michèle Pujol Room, UVic.
~ Lectures ~
Wednesday, March 17, 2004 1–2 p.m. **Biography of Prophet Muhammad**.
Thursday, March 18, 2004 1–2 p.m. **One Message: Moses, Jesus & Muhammad**.
Friday, March 19, 2004 2:30–3:30 p.m. **Islam & Terrorism**.
Our renowned guest speaker this year is Chaplain Mutahhir Sabree. Chaplain Mutahhir Sabree is one of two full-time Muslim Chaplains for the South Carolina Department of Corrections, serving in this capacity since 1966. After giving up an aspiring career as a professional Jazz Bassist, he became as Muslim in 1976. Since then, he has been active in Islamic Affairs, and has served as an Imaan and Muslim Chaplain in a number of organizations. He is currently enrolled as a student of the American Open University, seeking a degree in Islamic and Arabic Studies. He is a graduate of Trinity College of Hartford, CT with a B.A. in International Studies. He originally hails from Washington, DC and currently resides in Columbia, SC where he serves as the Islamic Teachings Coordinator of the Islamic Center of Columbia.

Interested in gaining RESEARCH EXPERIENCE? Applied student research training projects that focus on child and adolescent health and well-being are now available. Projects are submitted by community agencies. Students complete research projects for experience, course credit and a $200 stipend. Please contact Leah Wilson at cormrc@uvic.ca or 721-7843.
www.youth.society.uvic.ca

Off campus

RON ROLHEISER LECTURE AND WORKSHOP: Friday March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Aiden's United Church: "Where is Now? Naming the Present Moment." Next day, Fr. Ron will present a day-long workshop at Holy Cross Parish, an exploration of growth and discipleship entitled "Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life." Special student rate: Friday lecture $5, Saturday workshop $15, weekend ticket $18. Tickets available at the Interfaith Chaplaincy, Campus Services Building. All students, staff and faculty welcome.

UVic Red Cross Club presents Night of 1,000 Dinners. Friday, March 26, 2004, 6:30pm. Come bring a potluck dish and donation of $5+ and help support land mine awareness. There will be music, a speaker, games and videos . . . don't forget food. All are welcome . . . tell your friends.
More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE March 24th, 7:30pm, Holy Cross Parish 4049 Gordon Head Road. All students welcome.

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Volunteers wanted to act as conversation partners and activity leaders for international students. If interested, please send résumé or personal statement to:
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Accommodations

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Two rooms for rent in a 3 bedroom apartment @ Quadra and Tolmie. Bright, spacious, clean & two blocks to Mayfair Mall. Only $400 per month per bedroom. Heat and hot water included. No pets, no smoking. Call 380-9426 anytime. Rooms available for end of April or May 1st.

4 month summer sublet near Quadra & Mackenzie. 1 BDRM basement apartment. Fully furnished rooms & fully equiped kitchen. Incl. 2 futon beds. Prefer cat-friendly & family friendly mature undergrad or grad student (toddlers upstairs & landlord's excellent cat comes to visit). Close to buses, shopping, groceries, mail. 625/mo. Damage deposit, first & last mo.'s rent. All inclusive. Tenant arranges own phone service. Call Marty @ 744-5876 or e-mail mwaldman@uvic.ca.

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Professor seeks furnished summer (May 1–August 31) accomadation in James Bay, Farifield, or Oak Bay. Sublet or housesit okay. Quiet nonsmoker. No basements. Parking desired. Dr. David Heinimann, Northwest College, 250-638-5437.

Announcements

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Pizza Party, Catholic Student Association, Sunday March 28 5 p.m., Holy Cross Parish (4049 Gordon Head Road). Students of all ages welcome to take part.

March 9–23, UVic Red Cross Club is having a Food and Clothing Drive. Please bring non-perishable food and your unwanted clothes to the drop offs: MacLauren, McKinnon, Clearihue (comp. lab), SUB (resource centre) and the University Centre. Come help support your local community. More info: redcross@uvic.ca.

Wanna learn about POT? The Hempology 101 club is hosting their 5th annual Cannabis Convention. Lots of guest speakers! Lots of fun! Sunday March 14 in the Young building at Camosun College, 1–4 p.m.
www.hempology.com.

The Victoria Shakespeare Society will be holding auditions for the summer festival's performances of *As You Like It* directed by Libby Mason and *Love's Labour's Lost* directed by Chris Moss March 20 and 21. Auditions by appointment only 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Denise at 995-5958 or e-mail theatrepeople@hotmail.com to book an audition. All auditions will be held in room A169 MacLaurin Building, UVic. Bring résumé and headshot and prepare one song (bring sheet music) and two contrasting Shakespeare monologues. If interested in backstage/crew positions, please specify when booking appointment.

ACTIVIST VIDEO NIGHT presents "The Greening of Cuba." Cuban framers work to reinvent a sustainable agriculture based on ecological principles and local knowledge rather than imported corporate technology. We'll be showing "Water Water Everywhere . . . ?" which asks whether water is a human right or a corporate commodity to be bought, sold . . . or withheld. 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 19, Camosun College (Lansdowne), Fisher Building Theatre (room 100), FREE, info. – 595-3991.

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Hey you

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The Bum Manifesto: I believe that there's nothing so beautiful as a perfectly shaped woman's ass. I believe that laziness is a virtue. I believe that "success" is just another word for "slavery." My quest? To conquer the world while sleeping 12 hours a day, and then pass the torch to some lame-ass chump. – Jordan "akrasia" Gowans.

Elephant stepped on my foot.

What I wanted was the walking to, the not getting there, the every moment just starting out.

Cowboygirls may be trouble, but dangnabit, you'll never forget the time you had.

If you like walks on the beach, candle lit dinners, holding hands and red roses–then go fuck yourself!

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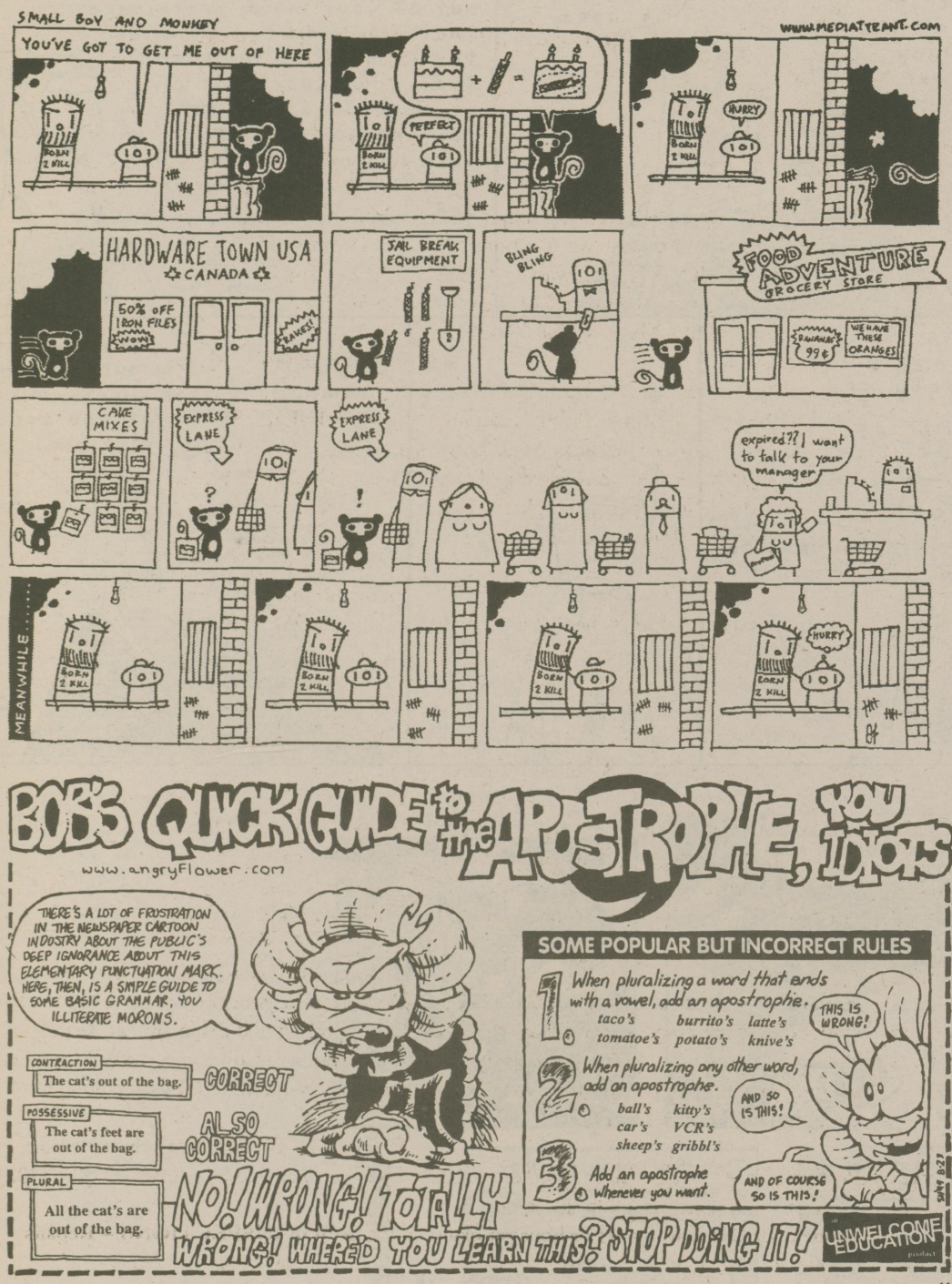
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The cat's out of the bag.
CORRECT
POSSESSIVE
The cat's feet are out of the bag.
ALSO CORRECT
PLURAL
All the cat's are out of the bag.
NO! WRONG! TOTALLY WRONG! WHERE'D YOU LEARN THIS? STOP DOING IT!
SOME POPULAR BUT INCORRECT RULES
1 When pluralizing a word that ends with a vowel, add an apostrophe.
taco's burrito's latte's
tomatoe's potato's knive's
THIS IS WRONG!
2 When pluralizing any other word, add an apostrophe.
ball's kitty's
car's VCR's
sheep's gribbl's
AND SO IS THIS!
3 Add an apostrophe whenever you want.
AND OF COURSE SO IS THIS!
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NOAM CHOMSKY
... and his dog Predicate!
by Jeffrey Weston
Hey Noam, another documentary film crew is here.
Oh, no. Not again.
So basically we're making a sequel to "Manufacturing Consent."
Is that possible?
Well, our investors say "yes". The university student activist market is very lucrative.
What?
Sure, we can spin off Noam Chomsky T-Shirts, coffee mugs, action figures, waffle irons...
That's disgusting!
Can I get in on that?
Predicate!
You can count me out of this.
Fine, we can do this without you.
Here's my investment of $10,000.
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on the spot

Today's Question: **What's grammatically wrong with this sentence: "Its going to be given to you and me."**

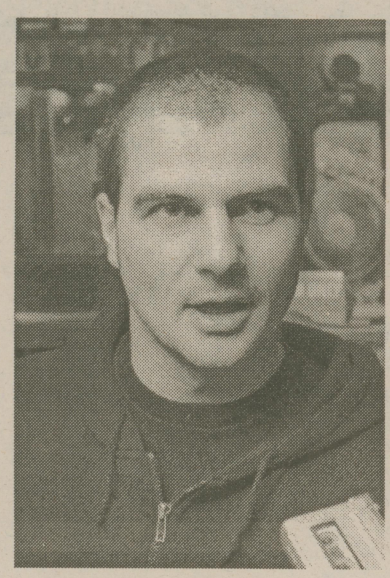
PARSED BY GRAHAM STARK
PHOTOS BY NIC HUME

Beverley Page

BP: Uh, well . . . some grammar.
GS: Some grammar?
BP: Well, yeah. It's not structured properly. It's . . . it's just not a proper sentence.
GS: Well, we know that, what's wrong with it?
BP: Well, there's no subject. It says "its" but it doesn't specify what "it" is. "You and me," well who? It doesn't specify that either.
GS: It doesn't need a subject, it has a subject.
BP: I'm not an English major.
GS: Neither are we.
BP: Well, "its" needs an apostrophe.
GS: That's the only error.
BP: Really? Yes!

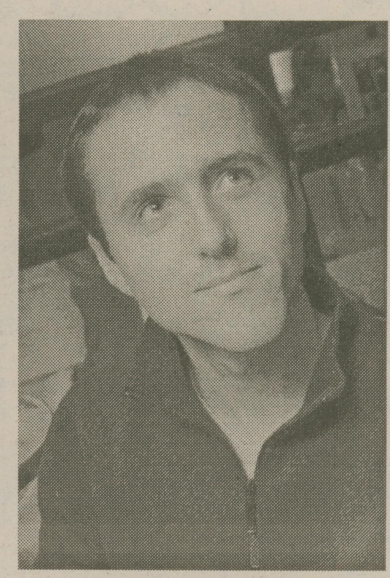
Jenny Hicks

JH: Is there just one?
GS: Yes.
JH: I don't know.
GS: Oh, come on.
JH: I'm gonna say that I need an apostrophe.
GS: Correct.



Sherwin Arnott

SA: "It is" is supposed to be two words. "You and me" . . . Why do you ask?
GS: What do you mean "why"? We're trying to find out if people know what's wrong.
SA: I would say in an informal context, it's important to say what's natural. Listen to your inner ear.
GS: We just want to know what's wrong. Like, grammatically.
SA: I reject your supposition that there's such a thing as "The Right Grammar." But "its" is supposed to have an apostrophe.

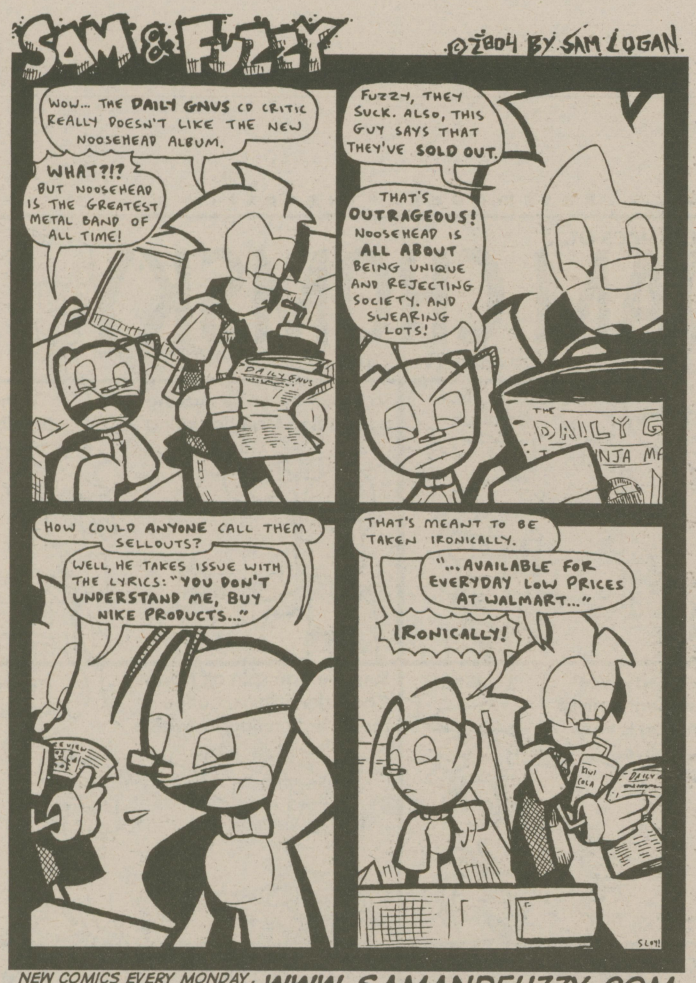


Jeff Werner (left) & Ross Macaulay (right)

JW: Well, it's not straight. *(referring to how it is physically written on the paper)*
RM: It's in English, and that always bad.
JW: Anything else witty?
RM: I'm trying, I'm really trying, but I'm not very good with it. I'm not up on grammar wit.
JW: There's nothing wrong with the "its."
RM: Yeah. Well, come on. You know funny grammar terms. Say something witty.
JW: Polyglottal stops. There's not enough polyglottal stops in it.
GS: Uh, thank you.

The error, in fact the only *error, is the missing apostrophe in the word "its." It should of course be "it's."*
"You and me" while often thought to be wrong, is correct in this instance because it is the object rather than the subject. It's accusative, not nominative.

There's no such thing as a polyglottal stop. Though there is one missing.


SAM & FUZZY
©2004 BY SAM LOGAN
WOW... THE DAILY GNUS CD CRITIC REALLY DOESN'T LIKE THE NEW NOOSEHEAD ALBUM.
WHAT?!? BUT NOOSEHEAD IS THE GREATEST METAL BAND OF ALL TIME!
FUZZY, THEY SUCK. ALSO, THIS GUY SAYS THAT THEY'VE SOLD OUT.
THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! NOOSEHEAD IS ALL ABOUT BEING UNIQUE AND REJECTING SOCIETY, AND SWEARING LOTS!
HOW COULD ANYONE CALL THEM SELLOUTS?
WELL, HE TAKES ISSUE WITH THE LYRICS: "YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ME, BUY NIKE PRODUCTS..."
THAT'S MEANT TO BE TAKEN IRONICALLY.
"...AVAILABLE FOR EVERYDAY LOW PRICES AT WALMART..."
IRONICALLY!
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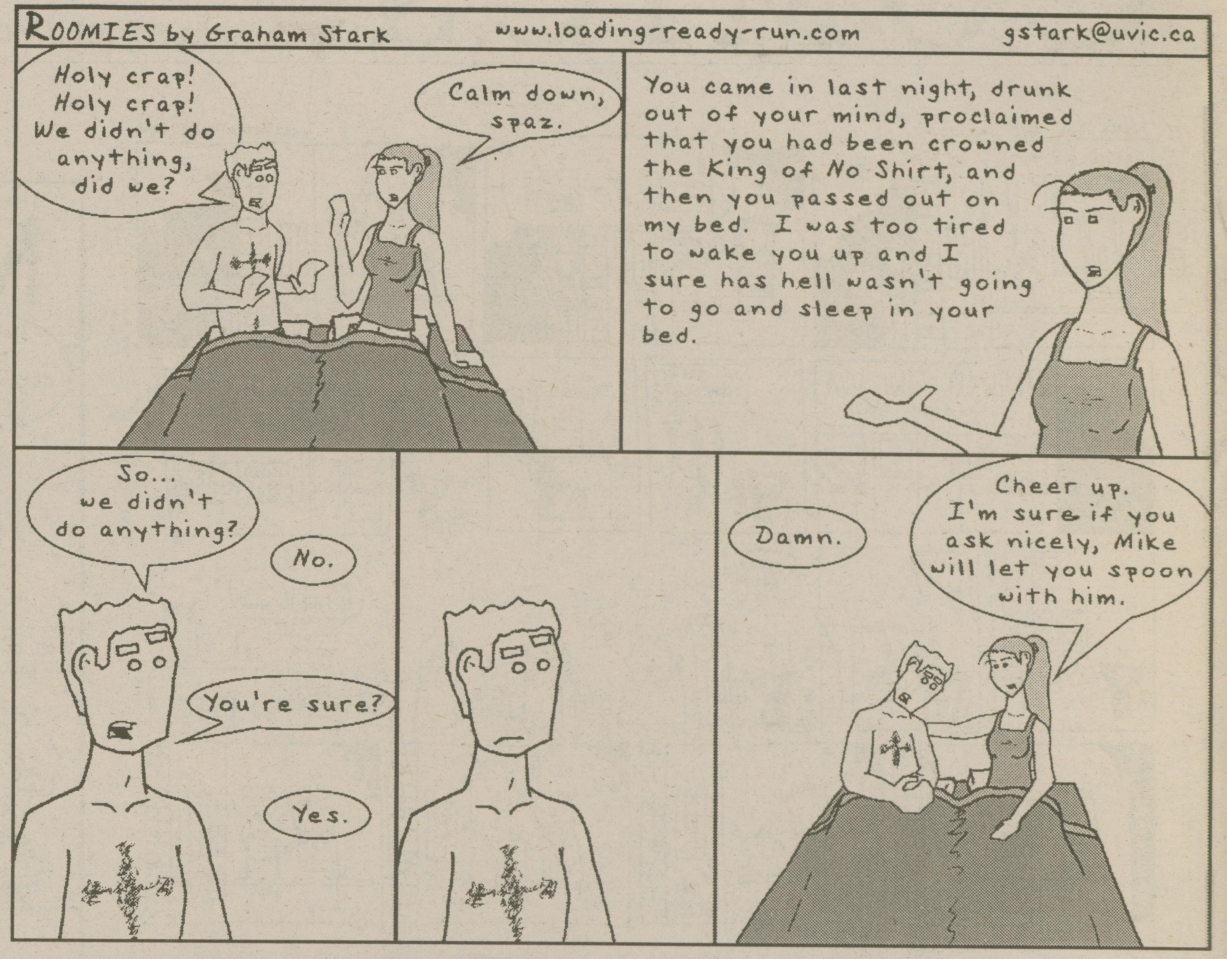
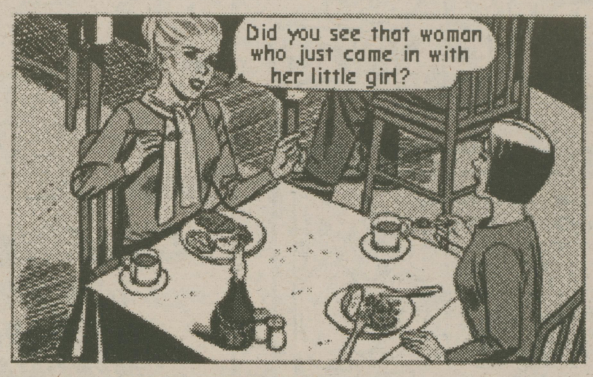
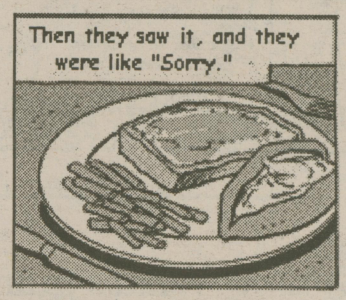

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
www.loading-ready-run.com
gstark@uvic.ca
Holy crap! Holy crap! We didn't do anything, did we?
Calm down, spaz.
You came in last night, drunk out of your mind, proclaimed that you had been crowned the King of No Shirt, and then you passed out on my bed. I was too tired to wake you up and I sure has hell wasn't going to go and sleep in your bed.
So... we didn't do anything?
No.
You're sure?
Yes.
Damn.
Cheer up. I'm sure if you ask nicely, Mike will let you spoon with him.

DISCEPATI





"Chalkboard sonata."

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